FLOWER COMICS
女王の花
一
和泉かねよし
小学館
FC200

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雑誌 46030-09　小学館

亜国の姫でありながら冷遇されている亜姫。
幼いながらも母の世話をしながら、
明るく生きる亜姫はある日、金の髪と
天の色の眼を持つ奴隷の少年・漸皇と出会う。
境遇の違いを超えて、
強い絆で結ばれる二人だったが、
その先に待っていたのは…!?

和泉かねよしの描く
歴史ロマン超大作、
待望の第一巻!!

ベツコミ フラワーコミックス

●和泉かねよしのFC

女王の花 ①
メンズ校 ①〜④
この姫の物語
そんなんじゃねえよ　全9巻
ダウト!!　全6巻
●和泉かねよしの世界
①パクレツ！大和撫子
②シンデレラの鉄ゲタ
●和泉かねよし傑作集
①ワイルドで行こう!!
②2½にぶんのに
③秘密の花園
●新装版
手のひらを太陽に　全2巻

和泉かねよしプロフィール

★4月1日生まれ。たぶんA型（一度も調べたことがないから）。
★第36回小学館新人コミック大賞入選、別冊少女コミック1995年9月号掲載の「天使」でデビュー。
★現在、ベツコミで大活躍中。

作者からのメッセージ

お手に取っていただき、ありがとうございます。中華モノで時代モノ？　とっつきにくいなぁ…と思われるかもしれませんが、中身は全然そんなことない…ハズです。中国に初めて行った時あらゆる文化財に直接、釘で電飾を打ち込んでいて、衝撃をおぼえました。国も歴史も大きいとダイナミックです。

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女王の花①

Transcendence

Joou No Hana

1

Izumi
Kaneyoshi

女王の花

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It's fine,
even if it's just for
a fleeting moment
Because everything
would lose its value if
that star were to return.
to these old and
wrinkled hands

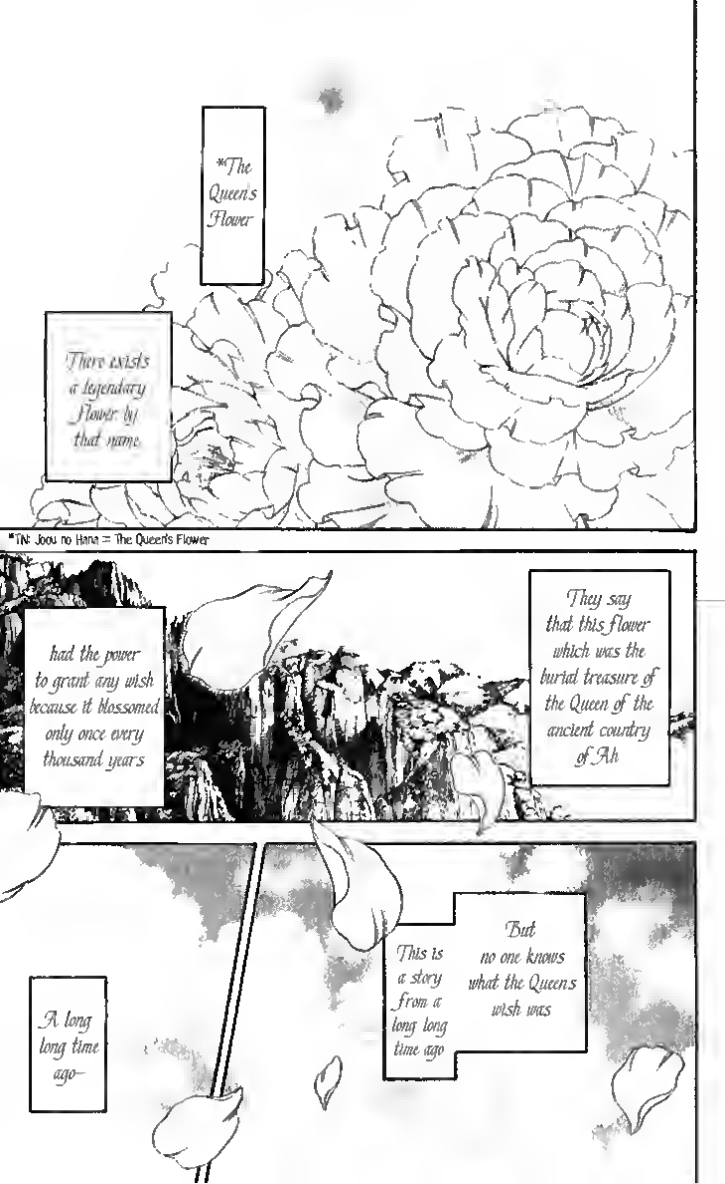
I don't

need

anything else

Joou No Hana

Chapter 1

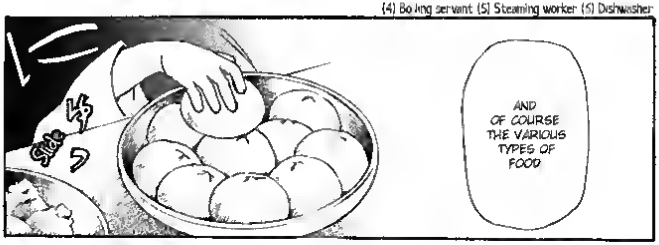

*The Queen's Flower
There exists a legendary Flower by that name.
*TN: Joou no Hana = The Queen's Flower
had the power to grant any wish because it blossomed only once every thousand years
They say that this flower which was the burial treasure of the Queen of the ancient country of Ah
A long long time ago—
This is a story from a long long time ago
But no one knows what the Queen's wish was

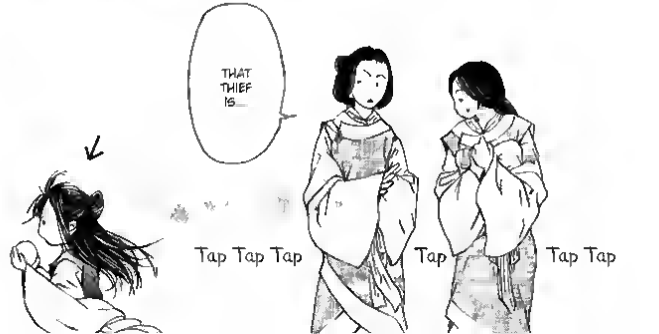
Ah• Capital

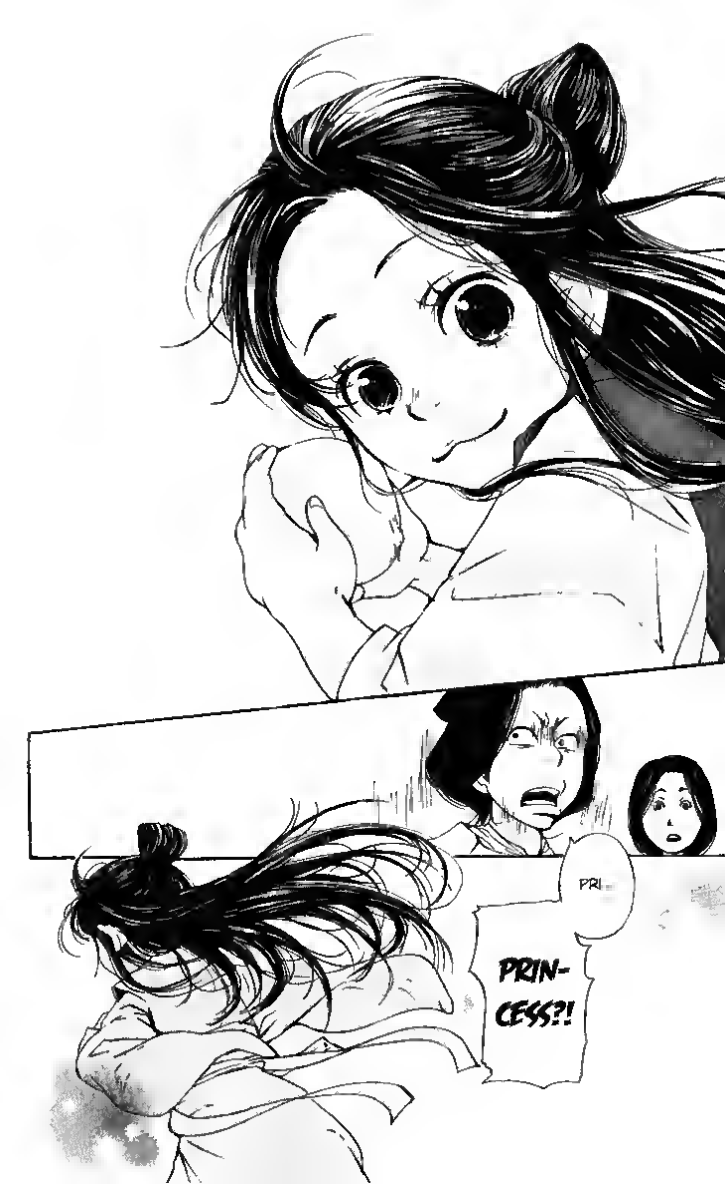
THE PALACE IS BEYOND THIS RED WALL
TSK! LOOK HERE NEWCOMER.

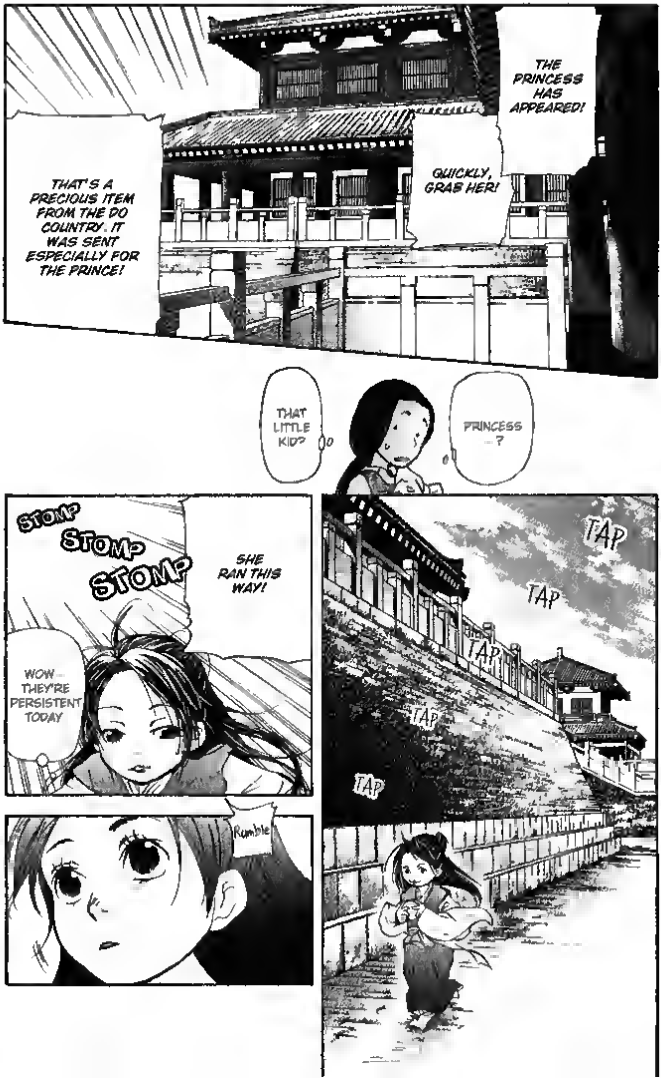
AH YES...!
THE PALACE'S KITCHEN HAS MANY PEOPLE AND MANY THINGS. YOU HAVE TO MEMORIZE THEM ALL
*(1) SAIFU, (2) YO, (3) SYUHO...
Hahhh
(4) TEI, (5) REKI (6) SEN

*(1) Chef (2) Chef's assistant (3) Sake maker
(4) Boiling servant (5) Steaming worker (5) Dishwasher

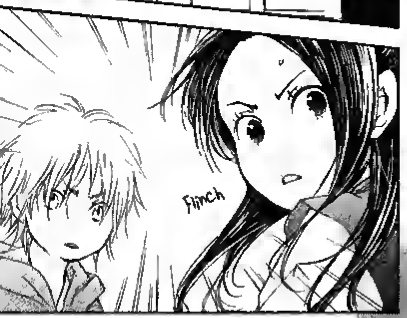




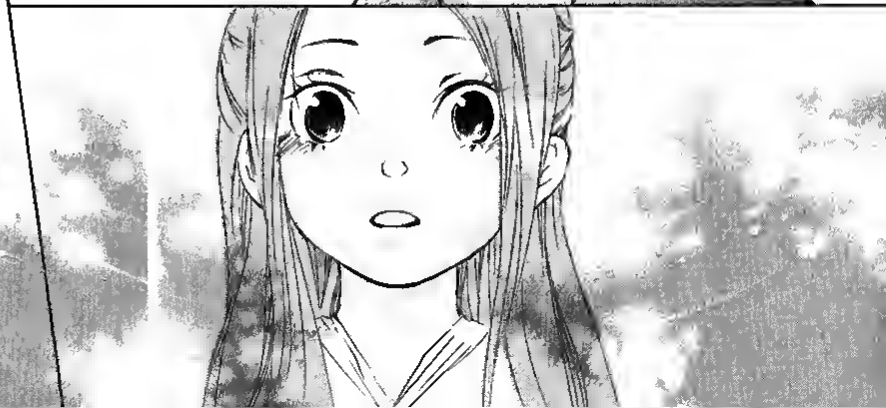

PRI-
PRIN-
CESS?!

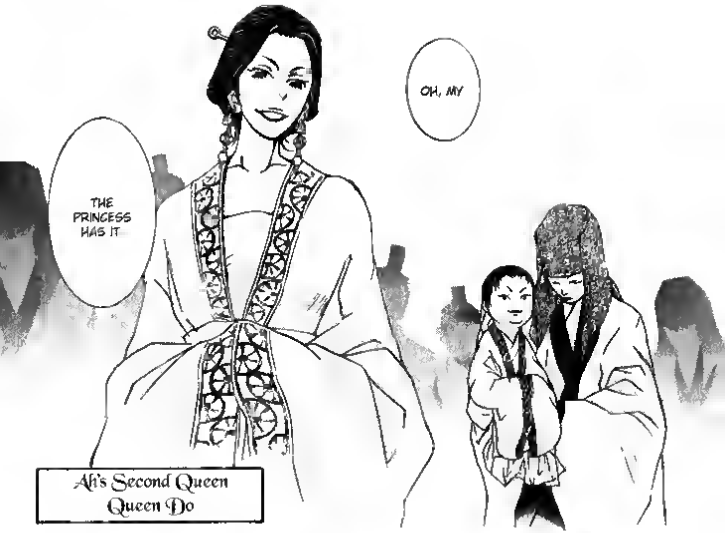

THE PRINCESS HAS APPEARED!
QUICKLY, GRAB HER!
THAT'S A PRECIOUS ITEM FROM THE DO COUNTRY. IT WAS SENT ESPECIALLY FOR THE PRINCE!
THAT LITTLE KID?
PRINCESS —?
STOMP STOMP STOMP
SHE RAN THIS WAY!
WOW— THEY'RE PERSISTENT TODAY
Rumble
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

RATTLE
What is...
SFX: Thud
SFX: RUSTLE



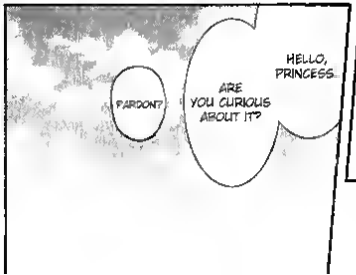
Golden hair.. and sky blue eyes!!!




OH, MY
THE PRINCESS HAS IT
Ah's Second Queen
Queen Do

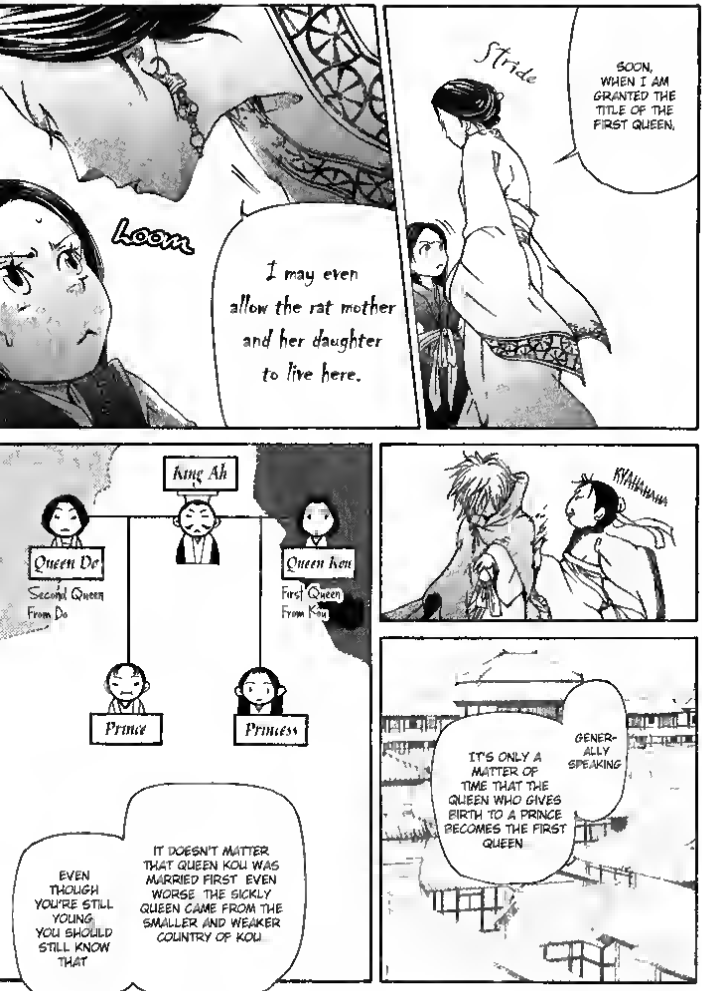
QUEEN DO-SAMA, HOW DO YOU DO?
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND

HALT


HELLO, PRINCESS.
ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT IT?
PARDON?

CHE
ABOUT THAT BARBARIAN* SLAVE
*A derogatory term for Caucasians in Ancient Asia
I'VE SEEN RED HAIR AND BROWN SKIN BEFORE, BUT THIS EYE COLOR...
North
West
East
South
Sou
Kon
Ah
Do
THAT'S THE RARE ITEM THAT WAS SENT FROM MY NATIVE COUNTRY OF DO AS THE PRINCE'S SIXTH BIRTHDAY PRESENT
HE'S NOT A HUMAN, BUT A BEAST.
It's just like a dog's. Pretty!
GRAB
Huh.
IT'S A RELIEF THAT I WASN'T THE ONE THAT THEY WERE CHASING AFTER, BUT...
THAT'S RIGHT PRINCESS.

I'VE HEARD THAT A MOUSE HAS BEEN APPEARING IN THE KITCHEN WHEN THERE'S EXPENSIVE NUTRITIOUS FOOD OUT.
ERM...
IN THE NEAR FUTURE
We'll have to exterminate it
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU'LL KILL ME...?
PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO QUEEN KOU... YOUR MOTHER.
THE PALACE OF AH IS QUITE SPACIOUS


Loom
I may even allow the rat mother and her daughter to live here.
Stride
SOON, WHEN I AM GRANTED THE TITLE OF THE FIRST QUEEN.
King Ah
Queen De
Second Queen From De
Queen Kou
First Queen From Kou
Prince
Princess
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE STILL YOUNG YOU SHOULD STILL KNOW THAT
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT QUEEN KOU WAS MARRIED FIRST. EVEN WORSE, THE SICKLY QUEEN CAME FROM THE SMALLER AND WEAKER COUNTRY OF KOU.
KYAHAHAHA
GENERALLY SPEAKING
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME THAT THE QUEEN WHO GIVES BIRTH TO A PRINCE BECOMES THE FIRST QUEEN.

CAW
CAW
CAW
I'M WELL AWARE
THAT QUEEN DO-SAMA IS A FOOL.

MY FATHER IS THE ONE WHO APPOINTS THE FIRST QUEEN
IT'S USELESS TO SAY THESE THINGS TO ME OR MY MOTHER
MOVING HER TO A ROOM SO SMALL THAT EVEN THE SUNLIGHT DOESN'T REACH IT AND NOT GIVING HER A TABLE DURING MEALTIMES—
THAT KIND OF THING IS—
SMACK

WA—

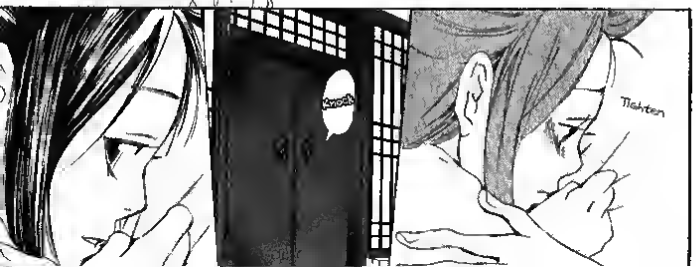
KILL THAT SLAVE!
Hm?
HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO THE PRINCE!!!
Wah-hhhh
WAIT! YOU'LL BE PUNISHED BY THE WRATH OF GOD
Shake
Shake
Shake
HE IS NOT A BEAST
THIS CHILD'S EYES ARE THE COLOR OF THE BLUE SKY! HIS HAIR, THE GOLD OF THE RICE PLANT EARS!
BEFORE STEPPING FORWARD SO RECKLESSLY, WHY DON'T YOU CONSIDER YOUR OWN SITUATION FIRST?

Bush
"SHE WEARS SHABBY CLOTHES THAT DON'T BEFIT A PRINCESS..."
"SHE ACTS LIKE A SNEAKY THIEF..."
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE KING THINKS OF YOU?
Huff
IT'S TRULY HORRIBLE
THAT HE TOSSED AWAY HIS SICK, USELESS WIFE AND HER DAUGHTER SO QUICKLY
BUT, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD A WORD OF DISAPPROVAL FROM OTHER PEOPLE?
WHAT HAPPENED?

Rustle
Rustle
MOTHER, PLEASE HOLD OUT YOUR HAND...
I— IT'S NOTHING...
PRINCESS, YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY ENERGY
Ah's First Queen
Queen Kou
HER ARM IS STILL SO THIN
Plop
THEY SAY THIS IS A SPECIAL FOOD THAT IS FROM DO! IT'S GOOD FOR YOU
THE LADIES WORKING IN THE KITCHEN *PREPARED IT FOR YOU*
EVERYONE IS WORKING TO RESTORE YOU BACK TO HEALTH
IF IT'S FOR MOTHER, I CAN DO ANYTHING
SLIDE

I'M SORRY

FOR MAKING YOU INTO AN ADULT WHEN YOU ARE ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD
I'M SO SORRY


Knock
Tighten

PEERS IN
PRINCESS — WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT THING I SEE OVER THERE—?
ACK!
HAKUSEI
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH I TALK THIS SLAVE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
YOU IDIOT! I TOLD YOU NOT TO FOLLOW ME!
EVEN IF YOU WERE ABANDONED BY QUEEN DO YOU SHOULD STILL LEAVE MY RESIDENCE! I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOU.
OH~

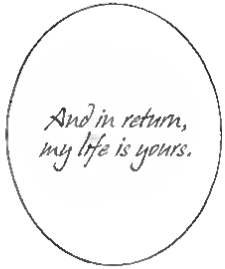
MY NAME IS...
"HAKUSEI".
BECAUSE OF MY STRANGE APPEARANCE. EVERYONE HAS BEEN SCOLDING ME AROUND CONTINUOUSLY
EVERYONE REGARDS ME AS AN ANIMAL
I WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND WORDS
HOW-EVER...
SO
YOU DO KNOW HOW TO TALK!
Step
Step

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SOMEONE DESCRIBED MY EYES AS "THE COLOR OF THE SKY"
I AM GOING TO MAKE YOU MY MASTER
SINCE I'M GETTING BORED OF BEING SOLD EVERYWHERE
Smile
DO—
DON'T SPOUT SUCH IDIOTIC NONSENSE! I SAID THAT I HAVE NO MEANS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!!
LOOK AT THIS BARE ROOM!

Gloom
AS I THOUGHT, THIS MOTHER OF YOURS HAS MADE LIFE HARD FOR YOU, PRINCESS...
WE'RE ONLY ROYALTY BY NAME. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU LOOK: NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, OR WEST, THIS IS BUT AN ABANDONED, MISERABLE ROOM! AREN'T YOU PITIFUL?
Dash!
PRINCESS... AREN'T WE THE PITIFUL ONES IN THIS SITUATION?
HAKUSEI— OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS— FOR THE TIME BEING, GET OUT!
SHE LOOKS REALLY UNWELL SEEING THAT YOUR FATHER ISN'T HELPING, IT SEEMS THAT YOU TWO ARE THE ONES THAT HAVE BEEN—
ABAN-DONED—
WHY? YOU WILL NEED A HAND IF YOUR MOTHER IS SICK.
IN... IN ANY CASE, GO AWAY TO WHEREVER YOU LIKE.
Dash
Dash

I know...
Hurt
CLAP
SHOCK
"THE THOUSAND YEAR FLOWER"
Mother is not going to get any better
But what can I do?
After my father had a son, he stopped caring about us...
and he doesn't help us at all

THE THOUSAND YEAR FLOWER THE THOUSAND YEAR FLOWER.
DO YOU KNOW OF IT?
THEY SAY THAT THIS FLOWER CAN GRANT ANY WISH, AND THAT IT GROWS ON A MOUNTAIN VERY FAR AWAY
BUT SINCE IT ONLY BLOSSOMS ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS... NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO LAY HIS HAND ON IT
THIS IS MY REQUEST.
"MAKE MY WISH COME TRUE ONE DAY."
MY WISH IS TO LIVE WITHOUT BEING HIT AS A SLAVE.
SO TAKE ME BY THE HAND
Shine
How beautiful



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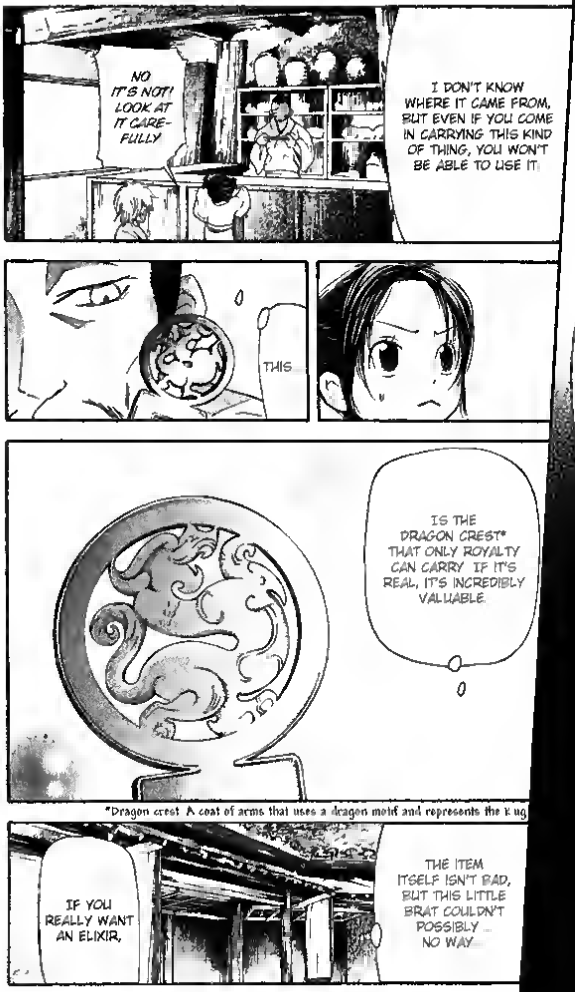
HAKU-SEI.
IF WE PASS THROUGH THE NEXT DOOR, WE'LL BE OUTSIDE THE PALACE
YOU'RE MINE NOW, SO FOLLOW ME CLOSELY!
SOMEHOW I THINK I WAS A BIT HASTY...
WHAT?
IT'S NOTHING
THEN, THAT'S THAT

PRINCESS, YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT VERY WELL, BUT ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE LIVE OUTSIDE THE PALACE
AH IS IN THE WEST, SO YOU CAN FIND A LOT OF RARE AND VALUABLE WESTERN GOODS
A SLAVE LIKE ME, OR A COW, A HORSE FOOD IN ANY CASE, THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS
BUT BESIDES THAT, IS IT OKAY TO GO OUTSIDE OF THE PALACE?
IT'S FINE! AND THERE MUST BE AN ELIXIR THAT WILL CURE MOTHER'S ILLNESS!

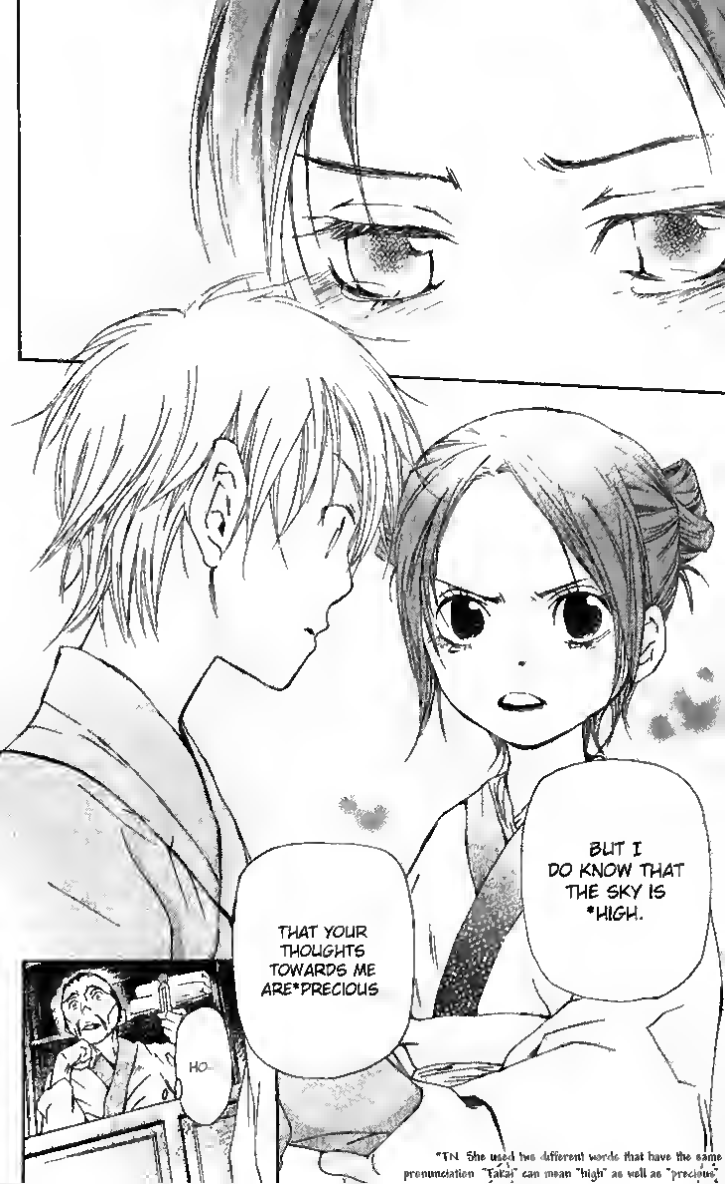
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, LITTLE LADY.
ELIXIRS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE.
IT'S HARD FOR EVEN MERCHANTS TO OBTAIN THEM.
THAT'S WHY IN EXCHANGE...
MY MOTHER BROUGHT THIS FROM KOU WHEN SHE GOT MARRIED. SHE SAID IT'S MADE OF A PRECIOUS GEMSTONE!
SHE GAVE IT TO ME SAYING THAT IT WILL HELP ME ONE DAY.


NO IT'S NOT! LOOK AT IT CARE-FULLY
I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM, BUT EVEN IF YOU COME IN CARRYING THIS KIND OF THING, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT!
THIS...
THIS IS FAKE.
IS THE DRAGON CREST* THAT ONLY ROYALTY CAN CARRY. IF IT'S REAL, IT'S INCREDIBLY VALUABLE.
*Dragon crest: A coat of arms that uses a dragon motif and represents the King.
IF YOU REALLY WANT AN ELIXIR,
THE ITEM ITSELF ISN'T BAD, BUT THIS LITTLE BRAT COULDN'T POSSIBLY... NO WAY...

HOW ABOUT SELLING THAT SLAVE?
HE'S YOURS, RIGHT? HIS COLORING IS REGRETTABLE,
BUT IT FEELS LIKE THERE WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO'D BUY HIM AT A HIGH PRICE AS AN ATTRACTION OR A SACRIFICE
Mother's illness...
will go away
Mother...
SEEING AS HOW YOU DELIBERATELY CAME IN SEARCH OF AN ELIXIR, THERE MUST BE SOMEONE THAT YOU DEFINITELY WANT TO CURE WITH IT, RIGHT?

AH
MUMBLE
THE THOUSAND YEAR FLOWER...
GRIN
IT'S OK IF YOU SELL ME
'My wish is
to live without being hit
IF I GET SOLD AND IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME I CAN JUST RUN AWAY AGAIN...
WELL THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. YOU CAN'T COMPARE YOUR MOTHER TO ME
AND HONESTLY, IT'S TIRING TO BE PARTNERS WITH SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE WAYS OF THE WORLD

NO.
YOU SAID YOU'RE MINE FOR LIFE.
I'm sorry
I'm sorry
Mother
LIKE YOU SAID, I MIGHT BE A SPOILED PERSON WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE WAYS OF THE WORLD
'A FROG INSIDE A WELL THAT DOESN'T KNOW THE OCEAN.'



*TN: She used two different words that have the same pronunciation. "Takai" can mean "high" as well as "precious."

SNIPE
THIS IS QUITE SOMETHING, LITTLE ONE
I SEE
HM...
YES IF YOU DON'T NEED IT, PLEASE GIVE IT BACK TO ME
WHO?
YOU SAID THAT YOUR MOTHER BROUGHT THIS HAIR ORNAMENT FROM KOU, RIGHT?
ANNOYED
S-SIR!
I'LL GIVE YOU THE ELIXIR
FOLLOW ME

THE THING CALLED TRADE IS AN ENIGMA. MOVING ITEMS MAKES MONEY
WOW!
FOR EXAMPLE,
EVEN IF YOU JUST STOOD HERE QUIETLY YOU'D SEE THE FLOW OF MANY PEOPLE, ITEMS, AND MONEY. THE THING I KNOW IS TRADE
AND ITEMS MOVE WHERE PEOPLE GATHER.
PEOPLE GATHER WHERE THE MONEY MOVES,

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TWO QUEENS IN THE AH ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, TRIBUTE ONLY GOES TO QUEEN DO
IT SEEMS THAT QUEEN KOU IS TREATED AS IF SHE WEREN'T THERE HER DAUGHTER, TOO...
WHO ARE YOU?
SFX: SLIDE
HA

Swish
SNATCH
GRAB
HAS THIS CHILD... CHOSEN AN OWNER TO PROTECT AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE?
NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION IS, YOU HAVE TO EVALUATE YOUR OPPONENT BEFORE ATTACKING!

HAKU-SEI!
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL NEED TO UNDERGO SOME SEVERE TRAINING.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY!
Bally-ing?
Dongle
PRINCESS,
I'M SEITETSU, THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE
I KNOW THAT THIS HAIR ORNAMENT IS REAL.
I'LL GIVE YOU THE ELIXIR WHEN IT COMES IN.
BUT, IN EXCHANGE, YOU MUST LEARN EVERY-THING HERE.

SCHOLARS, CONDUCTORS, COACHMEN, CHIVALROUS MEN, SHAMANS... THIS IS A PLACE WHERE EVERY KIND OF PERSON GATHERS, AND THEY WILL BE THE BEST SUPERINTENDENTS FOR YOUR EDUCATION
RITES MUSIC, ARCHERY, HORSEMANSHIP, LITERATURE AND MATHEMATICS. MASTER ALL THE SIX ARTS*.
From then...

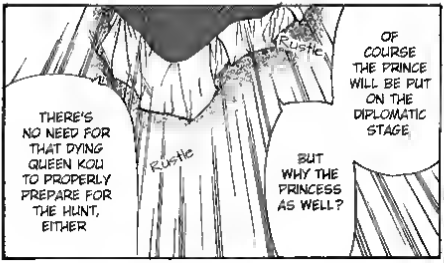
*There are six arts, called the Rokugei, which denote the six kinds of knowledge a wise man possesses. In ancient China, knowledge of Rokugei was required of those in higher ranks.

Six years have come to pass.
I SHALL HOLD THE AUTUMN HUNTING RALLY.

King Ah
ALL OF YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW,
AMBASSA-DORS FROM BOTH DO AND KOU WILL COME

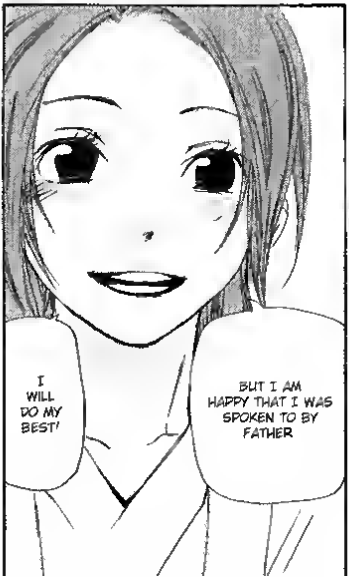
Prince Ah
Queen Do
THE PRINCE WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THIS HUNT.
LET US DISPLAY OUR AH ARMY'S DIGNIFIED MEN TO THE MANY AMBASSA-DORS
BUT THIS IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF OUR MILITARY DRILLS.

PRINCESS, YOU MAY PARTICIPATE AS WELL.
Aki (Fourteen years old)


RUSHE
RUSHE
OF COURSE THE PRINCE WILL BE PUT ON THE DIPLOMATIC STAGE
BUT WHY THE PRINCESS AS WELL?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT DYING QUEEN KOU TO PROPERLY PREPARE FOR THE HUNT, EITHER

WHAT IS THE KING THINKING...?

QUEEN DO-SAMA
THAT MOTHER AND DAUGHTER WHO HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE KING'S SIGHT UNTIL NOW


I WILL DO MY BEST!
BUT I AM HAPPY THAT I WAS SPOKEN TO BY FATHER

IT IS NOT ONLY DO, BUT ALSO KOU THAT ARE AH'S ALLIES
ONE SIMPLY CAN-NOT REFUSE TO SEND OUT FIRST QUEEN KOU'S DAUGHTER.

THANK YOU.
INDEED. YOU ARE A PRINCESS WHO HAS INHERITED THE BLOOD OF THE WIFE FROM KOU, THE SMALL NATION THAT ONLY HAS BEAUTIFUL MEN AND WOMEN TO BOAST OF.
Ho Ho Ho Ho
Ho Ho
Che!
PRIN-CESS...
YOU'VE BECOME LOVELIER SINCE THE TIME I'D LAST SEEN YOU.
All I have is the loveliness of a woman.
IT'S BECAUSE UNLIKE QUEEN DO-SAMA, WHO HAS EXPENSIVE CLOTHES AND DELI-CATE BLUSH,
I'VE HEARD THAT QUEEN KOU HAS BEEN TAKING AN ELIXIR, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE'S GOING TO LIVE MUCH LONGER.
WHEN SHE PASSES AWAY, PRINCESS WILL LIVE AS AN OUT-CAST IN THIS LARGE PALACE...
PRINCESS SHOULDN'T YOU BE A BIT MORE POLITE?
EEEP

GLARE
MOTHER WILL NOT DIE!
THAT IS THE LIFE OF AN ORPHAN WITH NO ONE TO WATCH HER BACK.
AND... OH, YES! IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE TAKEN IN THAT BARBARIC SLAVE FROM BEFORE?
HO HO HO
THAT'S RIGHT. HOW DOES THAT SLAVE WE THREW AWAY TASTE?
EVEN WITHOUT ANYONE TO FALL BACK ON, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO AT LEAST SEDUCE A MINOR OFFICIAL WITH THAT BEAUTY AND YOUTH OF YOURS
HO HO HO
IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE THAT, THAT'S FINE

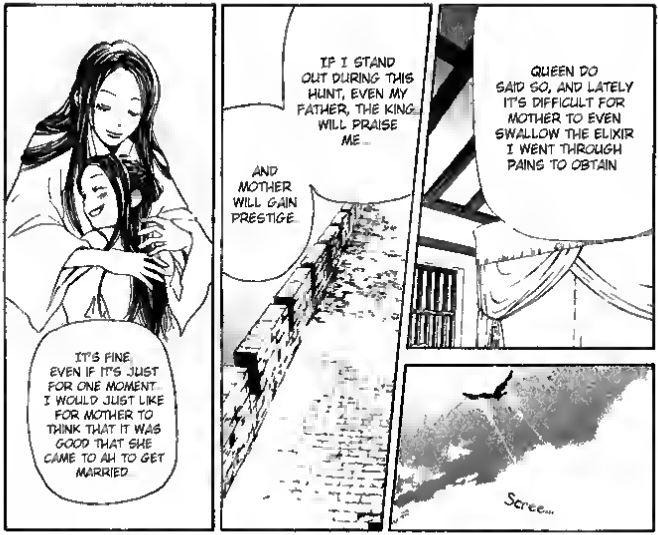
HE TASTES FANTASTIC!
WHAT...!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PRINCESS?!

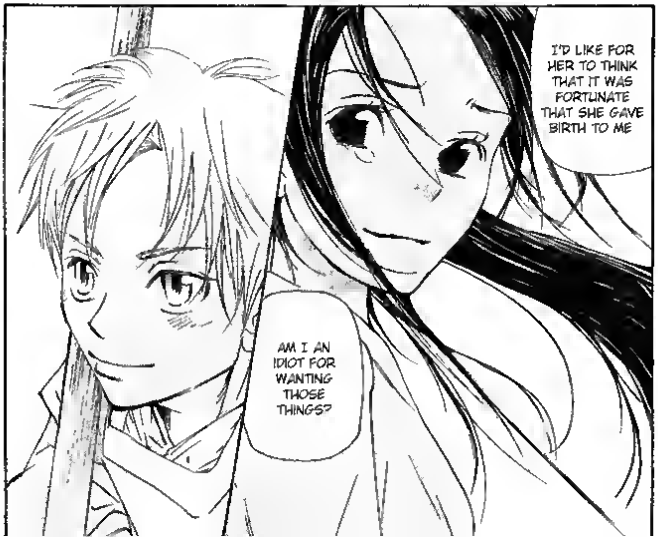
It's already been six years since I met this princess.
It passed by so quickly
ANNOYED
IT'S MORTIFYING! HAKUSEI ISN'T BARBARIC! YOU HELP ME OUT A LOT!
You're useful!
UGH LOOKS LIKE SHE DEFINITELY HASN'T REALIZED THAT I'M ACTUALLY A MAN
Let alone that she was asked about how I 'taste'
AH, AH SHE'S STILL AS NAIVE AS ALWAYS WHEN IT COMES TO STRANGE THINGS
HAIR.
EXCUSE ME?
WHY DON'T YOU GROW IT OUT? IT'S SO PRETTY BECAUSE IT'S GOLD...

I CAN'T GROW IT OUT.
BECAUSE I AM A SLAVE
WHEN DID YOU START SPEAKING SO FORMALLY...?
IF IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS SOON ENOUGH YOU MIGHT BE SAYING, 'MASTER, PLEASE HIT ME WITH A SWITCH'...
I WILL NOT!
You really!
Oh Oh
YANK
OUCH!
Rub
Rub
OUCH...! IT HURTS!
I THINK THAT YOU'RE LOVELY ENOUGH TO WANT TO SHOW OFF TO THE WORLD
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT QUEEN DO SAYS!

BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO? YOU'RE GOING TO THE HUNT, BUT DON'T YOU LACK A HORSE AND DECENT EQUIPMENT?
Here we GO
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO BORROW SOME FROM THE ARMORY, QUEEN DO WILL OBVIOUSLY INTERFERE
I KNOW
QUEEN KOU, WHO HAS BECOME ALIENATED FROM AH, HAS DISPUTES WITH QUEEN DO, BUT THEY'RE LIKE PROXY WARS
I'VE HEARD THAT THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER WAR BETWEEN KOU AND DO.
I'M NO LONGER A YOUNG GIRL WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANY-THING.
Though others are completely accepting of slavery

BATTLE IS DRAWING NEAR
WHETHER I WIN OR LOSE AGAINST QUEEN DO,
IT'S FOR MY MOTHER, WHO CANNOT HAVE A LONG LIFE
WHAT I WANT IS TO WIN FOR AN IMPORTANT PERSON.
BUT
THE TRUTH IS THAT I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MATTERS OF THE WORLD


IT'S FINE. EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR ONE MOMENT, I WOULD JUST LIKE FOR MOTHER TO THINK THAT IT WAS GOOD THAT SHE CAME TO AH TO GET MARRIED.
IF I STAND OUT DURING THIS HUNT, EVEN MY FATHER, THE KING, WILL PRAISE ME...
AND MOTHER WILL GAIN PRESTIGE.
QUEEN DO SAID SO, AND LATELY IT'S DIFFICULT FOR MOTHER TO EVEN SWALLOW THE ELIXIR I WENT THROUGH PAINS TO OBTAIN
Scree...


I'D LIKE FOR HER TO THINK THAT IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ME
AM I AN IDIOT FOR WANTING THOSE THINGS?

Twack
ONE, TWO!
PRINCESS, IT'S TO THE RIGHT!

Wu...ou
W... WOW!
SFX: GRAH
THE FIRST KILL IS THE PRINCESS!
THE FIRST KILL GOES TO AH'S PRINCESS!
Ah•Hunting Ground

THE ARMOR IS SO HEAVY THAT I CAN'T MOVE...
Sweat

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?!
RATTLE
RATTLE
PRINCE!
THERE IS NO REASON FOR SOMEONE TO HAVE TAUGHT THE PRINCESS ARCHERY! PRINCE, WHAT SHALL WE DO?

TSK TSK
Kou•Envoy Seiitsu

SFX Rustle

YOU DID SPLENDIDLY, PRINCESS!

YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT THAT BOISTEROUSLY ORNATE ARMOR THAT HE PUT ON FOR SHOW
AU'S PRINCESS IS MUCH MORE CAPABLE THAN IT'S PRINCE
And he's on a chariot instead of a horse
Hm... It's true. Even in Do, he'd be standing like a mysterious, luminous body

A BARBARIAN...
SHE'S A VERY ENIGMATIC PRINCESS
Hahaha
EVEN SO, HOW EYE-CATCHING! WHAT AN INTERESTING MASTER AND SLAVE
HAKUSEI! YOUR DIRECTIONS WERE GREAT, TOO.
GALLOP

IT'S GREAT! AS EXPECTED OF THE HORSES SEITETSU SPECIFICALLY CHOSE FROM THE WEST.
OF COURSE! BUT BESIDES THAT, HOW IS THE STATE OF YOUR HORSE?
GALLOP
GALLOP
WE BETTER GO THANK SEITETSU LATER...
SINCE WE BORROWED EVERYTHING FROM OUR GARMENTS TO OUR EQUIPMENT FROM HIS STORE
YUP, HAVING A RICH FRIEND IS THE BEST!
Ahaha
Ha
PRINCESS... THAT KIND OF TALK IS...
Gallop
I THINK THAT EVERYONE WATCHING WAS SURPRISED
SINCE THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE THOUGHT THAT AH'S PRINCESS WAS DEVELOPING HER HORSEMANSHIP AND ARCHERY FOR SIX YEARS
THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.
HAKUSEI, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LOSE CONTROL

GALLOP
Faster.
Faster.
Faster.
Faster.

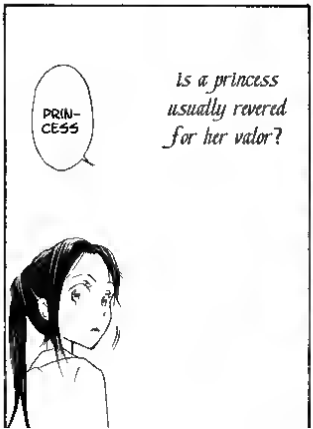
Fast enough
so that no
one can say
anything—

IN THE END, PRINCESS ENDED UP BEING THE BEST ARCHER.
THIS ISN'T JUST THE EMPTY FLATTERY OF A HIGH OFFICIAL. PLEASE DO CONTINUE WITH YOUR EFFORTS UNTIL THE NEXT EVENT.
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
VERY IMPRES-SIVE!
IN ANY CASE, FOR THERE TO HAVE BEEN A PRINCESS IN AU WITH SUCH A PROMISING FUTURE LIKE THIS...
WE LEAVE IT TO YOU FOR NEXT TIME AS WELL.
CHATTER
CHATTER
THIS PRAISE IS MORE THAN I DESERVE

Tremble
FOR THIS TO OCCUR !
BAM
Ah
ha
ha
ha

So there is no interest in this country's Prince and his mother?
How did this happen?!

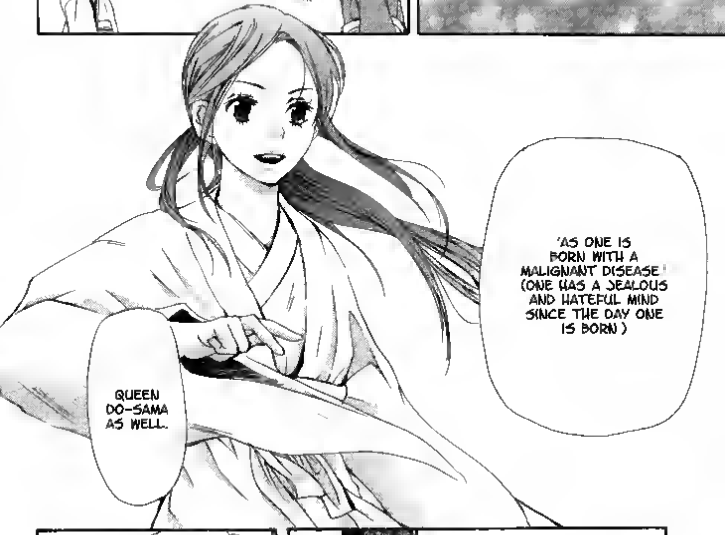
Although


PRIN-CESS
Is a princess usually revered for her valor?

AS A MOTHER, I AM WORRIED
PRINCESS IS THE KING'S DAUGHTER INSTEAD OF VALOR IN ARMS, THERE IS A MORE NECESSARY PATH FOR YOU TO TAKE
'AFTER RITES CAN THERE BE A REIGN.' (THERE MUST FIRST BE PROPRIETY AND HONOR BEFORE THE WORLD CAN HAVE PEACE.)
RISE
VALOR WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE IS EMBARRASSING

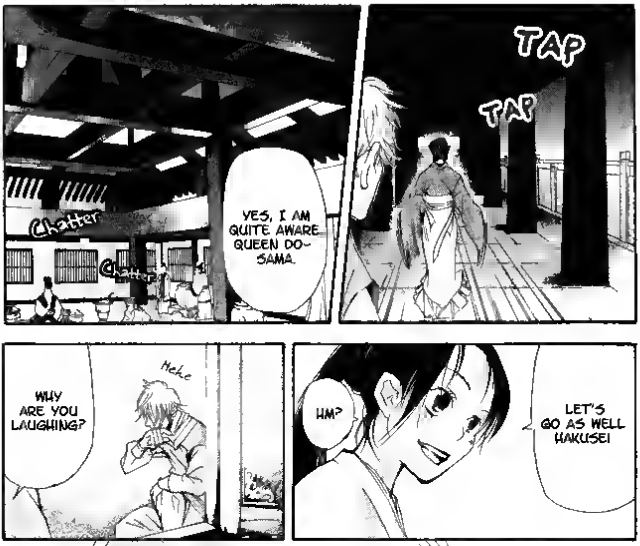
UM... THE FIRST PART IS PROBABLY, "SINCE HUMAN NATURE IS WICKED, VIRTUE IS A LIE."
!

AHA, ISN'T THAT A RECENTLY POPULAR PURSUIT OF STUDY?


'AS ONE IS BORN WITH A MALIGNANT DISEASE' (ONE HAS A JEALOUS AND HATEFUL MIND SINCE THE DAY ONE IS BORN)
QUEEN DO-SAMA AS WELL.

Pft.
Ho Ho

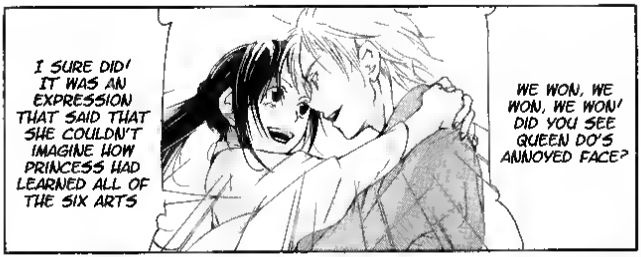
Someone is definitely on her side She hasn't been assigned a teacher in the Palace
This child...!
I must get rid of her before it's too late.
I DON'T FEEL VERY WELL! I SHALL RETIRE NOW.
SWISH
HMPH WE HAD BETTER CULTIVATE THOSE EYES OF YOURS TO WATCH YOUR MASTER TOO
AND TO TEACH YOU HOW TO CONTROL YOUR ANGER WHEN SERVING A FOOL REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE OF ROYALTY

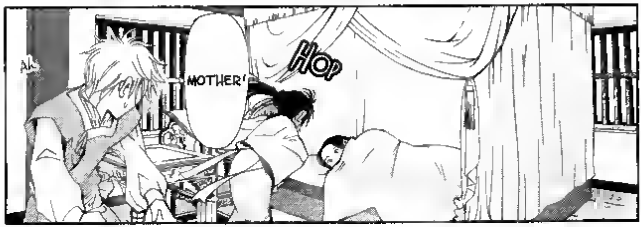

Chatter
Chatter
YES, I AM QUITE AWARE. QUEEN DO-SAMA.
TAP
TAP
Hehe
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
HM?
LET'S GO AS WELL HAKUSEI

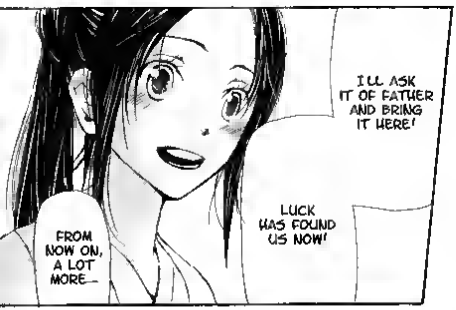
I'M NOT SERVING YOU BECAUSE I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT... QUEEN DO-SAMA.

YES, THAT IS SO
THEY SAY HIS MAJESTY WANTS TO CONFIDENTIALLY AWARD PRINCESS A PRIZE FOR HER RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Queen Kou's Residence
PLEASE COME TO THE KING'S PALACE AFTER SUPPER
THIS IS A STEW MADE FROM YOUR RECENT CATCH
THANK YOU PLEASE LEAVE IT HERE AND RETURN
SWISH
SFX COMIX
SLIDE

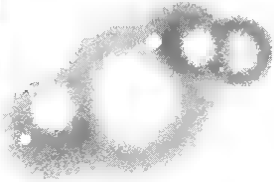
WE FINALLY DID IT! AHA HAHA~
WE DID IT!!!


I SURE DID! IT WAS AN EXPRESSION THAT SAID THAT SHE COULDN'T IMAGINE HOW PRINCESS HAD LEARNED ALL OF THE SIX ARTS
WE WON, WE WON, WE WON! DID YOU SEE QUEEN DO'S ANNOYED FACE?


AH
MOTHER!
HOP


FROM NOW ON, A LOT MORE—
LUCK HAS FOUND US NOW!
I'LL ASK IT OF FATHER AND BRING IT HERE!

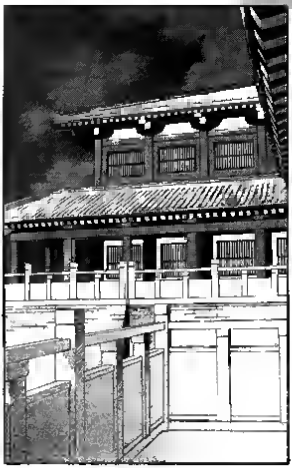
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE?
THEY SAY THAT I WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE FROM FATHER!

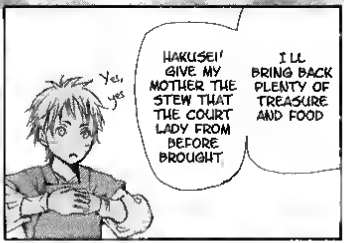


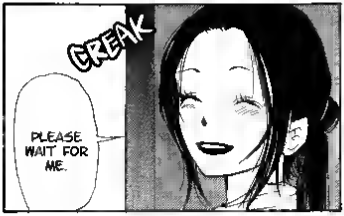
I'VE BEEN PERFECTLY HAPPY...
PRINCESS.
UNDESERVEDLY HAPPY
JUST HAVING YOU

wipe
wipe
I'LL GO SEE FATHER AND RETURN!
THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH GREED MOTHER!

MO-THER




I'LL BRING BACK PLENTY OF TREASURE AND FOOD
HAKUSEI! GIVE MY MOTHER THE STEW THAT THE COURT LADY FROM BEFORE BROUGHT.
Yes, yes


CREAK
PLEASE WAIT FOR ME.

IT'S YOUR PRICE TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU DESIRE
GASP
NO THIS IS TOO MUCH!
FROM NOW ON, DON'T BE MODEST ABOUT ANYTHING YOU NEED.
IT WAS ASTON-ISHING

SINCE I DID NOT ASSIGN YOU ANY PARTICULAR TEACHER I EXPECTED YOUR ARCHERY AND HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS TO BE DIFFERENT...
BUT YOU WERE MORE SKILLFUL THAN THE PRINCE
Clench
Father is praising me
It's like a dream!!!
ARE YOU HAPPY?
YES!
THEN WILL YOU LISTEN TO MY ONE REQUEST?
YES!
Kyaaa!
This cloth is so wonderful!

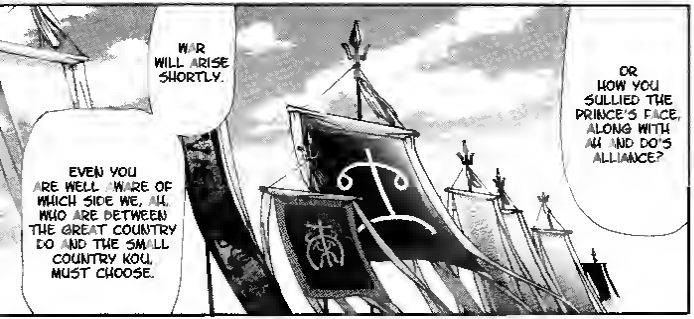
Leave Ah
Don't show your face in front of me again.

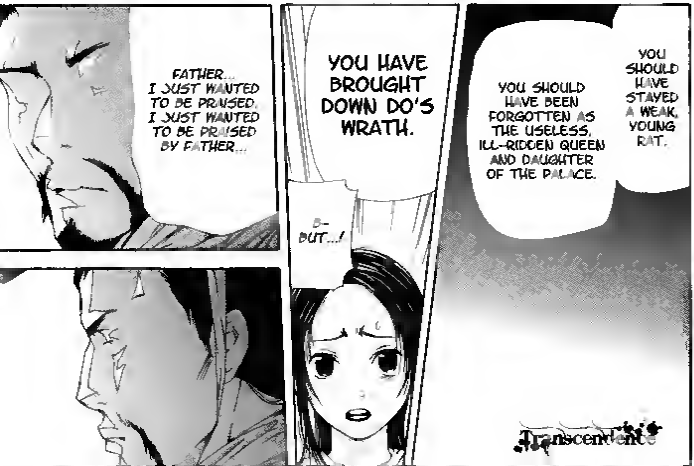
GO TO KOU AS A HOSTAGE.
SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS NOT NEEDED.
YOU'LL ONLY BE A DISTURBANCE.
Tremble
Tremble
Thump

WH WHAT...
EXACTLY IS IT ABOUT ME THAT DISPLEASES YOU...?
I SHALL FIX IT!

I DO NOT NEED A PRIZE
If only I can be praised by Father
that'll be enough
I SHALL STUDY DILIGENTLY TO BECOME BETTER AT USING THE BOW AND HORSE ALONG WITH THE SWORD AND STUDIES!
DILIGENTLY
So I can become a Princess that will be acknowledged by Father
FOOL.

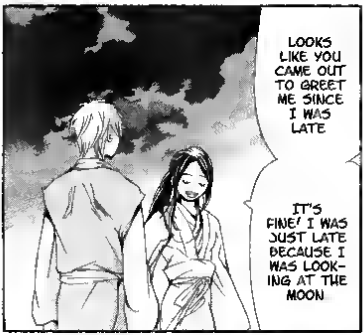
DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU DO NOT EVEN KNOW HOW YOU'VE BESMIRCHED DO'S HONOR?
I THOUGHT YOU HAD SOME INTELLIGENCE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE A FOOL.


EVEN YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF WHICH SIDE WE, AU, WHO ARE BETWEEN THE GREAT COUNTRY DO AND THE SMALL COUNTRY KOU, MUST CHOOSE.
WAR WILL ARISE SHORTLY.
OR HOW YOU SULLIED THE PRINCE'S FACE, ALONG WITH AU AND DO'S ALLIANCE?

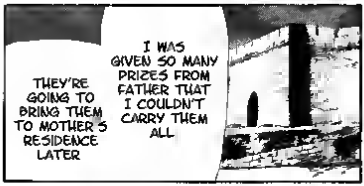

FATHER... I JUST WANTED TO BE PRAISED. I JUST WANTED TO BE PRAISED BY FATHER...
YOU HAVE BROUGHT DOWN DO'S WRATH.
B-BUT...!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN AS THE USELESS, ILL-RIDDEN QUEEN AND DAUGHTER OF THE PALACE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED A WEAK, YOUNG RAT.
Transcendence

YOU SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN BORN.
YOU ARE A CHILD OF MISFOR-TUNE.

HAKUSEI
HAKUSEI


LOOKS LIKE YOU CAME OUT TO GREET ME SINCE I WAS LATE
IT'S FINE! I WAS JUST LATE BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING AT THE MOON

AH


I WAS GIVEN SO MANY PRIZES FROM FATHER THAT I COULDN'T CARRY THEM ALL
THEY'RE GOING TO BRING THEM TO MOTHER'S RESIDENCE LATER

PRINCESS, WAIT A MOMENT
OR HOW ABOUT AN ORNATE DAGGER

Because my precious mother is here, I don't need anything else.

PRINCESS
UM HOW ABOUT EARRINGS THAT WILL GO WITH YOUR EYES?
I'LL GIVE SOME TO YOU, TOO

That's right...

QUEEN KOU-SAMA PASSED AWAY JUST NOW

NO
NO...

NO, THIS PERSON ISN'T MOTHER
MOTHER WAS THIN BUT SHE WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS A FLOWER
SHE WAS ALWAYS SMILING PEACE-FULLY.
DASH
PRINCESS!
IT IS QUEEN KOU-SAMA! I AM TELL-ING YOU, IT IS QUEEN KOU-SAMA!
THOUGH HER FACE IS A BIT CONTORTED FROM... STRUGGLING RIGHT AFTER INGESTING POISON!
SLAP
WHY?!
WHY WHEN YOU WERE RIGHT NEXT TO HER?!
POISON?
THERE WAS POISON IN THE STEW THAT WAS SENT BEFORE.
POISON?
POISON?
"War will arise shortly
You have brought down Dos wrath"

Pull
MY FOOL-ISHNESS...
MY FAULT?
WAS IT...
KILLED MOTHER.
Drip
EVEN...
FA-THER...
WOULD...
LOVE... ME...
Drip
Drip
Drip
PRIN-CESS.
I THOUGHT... THAT IF I GROOMED AND POLISHED MYSELF BY LEARNING THE SIX ARTS,
SOME-DAY...
Teeter

AH...
AHHH!
AH...
AH.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NOW!
NOTHING!
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING!
PRINCESS! PRINCESS!
AHHH!
AHHHHH!
PRIN-CESS
I CAN'T LIVE
I AM IN THIS HAND OF YOURS
EVEN SO,

HU
HU
EVEN IF YOUR LUCK YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR PARENTS FALL OUT OF YOUR GRASP,
I STILL REMAIN.

'THE 1000 YEAR FLOWER'
'THE 1000 YEAR FLOWER'
DO YOU REMEMBER? THE PROMISE FROM WHEN WE WERE YOUNG?
UNTIL YOU TAKE YOUR LAST BREATH I WILL BE WITHIN YOUR GRASP
HU
HU...

The 1000 Year Flower
an oath flower
It is a wish flower
and
DRIP

KYAAA! QUEEN DO-SAMA!
WI-
WITH YOUR POSITION AS A SLAVE... YOUR POSITION AS A CHILD! DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE POINTING A SWORD AT?!
EH?!
IT APPEARS THAT YOU CANNOT SEE THROUGH THOSE WRETCHED BLUE EYES!
Wah
Wah

DON'T WORRY
I WILL MAKE IT QUICK
GWP
HAKUSEI, STOP!

I DON'T WISH FOR THAT
PUT AWAY YOUR SWORD
THE PERSON WHO ORDERED FOR POISON TO BE PUT INTO THE STEW THAT KILLED MY MOTHER HAS NOT BEEN REVEALED
OF COURSE, THE MOST LIKELY SUSPECT IS QUEEN DO-SAMA
AS THE KING WISHES, I WILL GO TO KOU AS A HOSTAGE
THERE PROBABLY WON'T BE MUCH INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENT
Mhm
GIVE IT HERE
PAR-DON?
I WILL LEAVE AH
MUTTER
MUTTER

Swoosh
REGARD-
LESS OF
HOW MANY
YEARS IT
TAKES
HOWEVER,
I WILL SURELY
RETURN
TO AH

AT ALL COSTS, I WILL REVEAL YOUR GUILT
IT WOULD BE GOOD TO PREPARE AND AWAIT MY RETURN!
HAKUSEI
I WHO AM DEPARTING FROM ALL HAVE EVEN LESS THAN BEFORE
BUT WILL YOU STILL FOLLOW ME?

YOU SHOULDN'T SAY, 'WILL YOU FOLLOW ME?', BUT 'FOLLOW ME'.
IN THIS SITUATION

just one star of hope in my hand—

There are still five years to go...
before Aki will ascend to the throne as Queen–

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Toou no Hana

Chapter 2

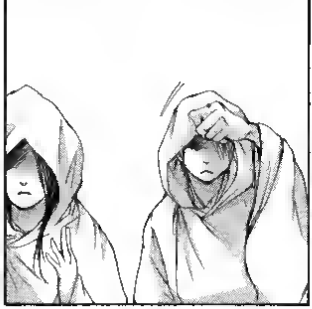
Long long ago...
farther back than you can imagine...
but when countries fought against countries
Sou
Ko
Ah
Do
North
West
East
South
This story takes place when the world wasn't one
a princess was brought as a hostage
Chatter
Chatter
From a country called Ah to a country called Ko

Imperial Palace
KING KOU IS YOUR "GRANDFATHER"
SINCE LADY AKI'S MOTHER WAS BORN IN THIS PALACE,
ha ha
Noble Seifusu of Huang County
THAT'S THAT

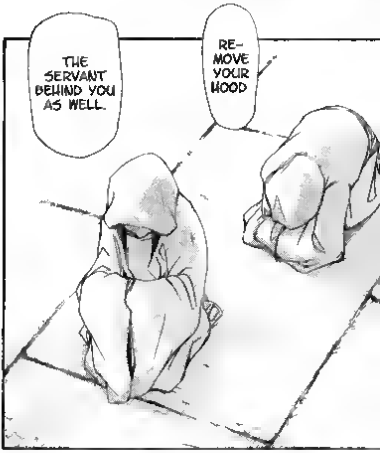
AH!
PLEASE DON'T THINK OF YOURSELF AS A HOSTAGE. MISS AKI SHOULD ALSO COMFORTABLE...
AH COUNTRY'S IMPERIAL PALACES HAVE BEEN BUILT WITH THIS ONE AS A MODEL.
THE CURRENT KOU IS A SMALL COUNTRY IN THE EAST, BUT SINCE IT WAS THE WORLD'S LEADER IN THE PAST,
THIS PALACE LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE PALACE IN AH, RIGHT?
I, SEIITSU, AM BY YOUR SIDE, SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ACT AS IF YOU WERE HOME.
SINCE SHE'S STILL A FOURTEEN YEAR-OLD YOUNG GIRL. OF COURSE SHE'D MISS HER HOME COUNTRY

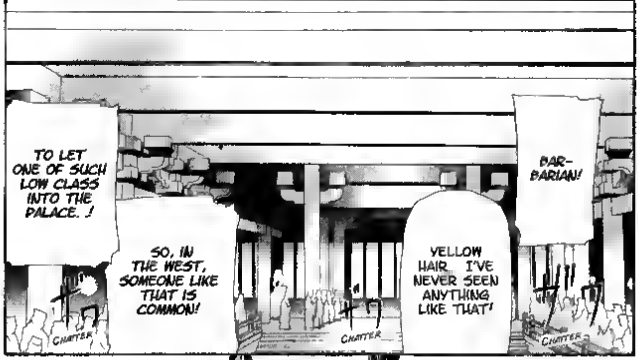
LIKE HELL SHE WOULD
BUT PRINCESS! HOW CAN YOU FEEL AT HOME WITH SUCH A FRIVOLOUS-LOOKING PERSON?!
GRAB
HAKUSEI!
RATHER, I SHOULD ESCAPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I DON'T PLAN TO STAY IN THIS COUNTRY FOR LONG NO,
HAKUSEI!

I'M...
GOING TO RETURN FOR SURE.
Swish
QUITE A FORMIDABLE PRINCESS HAS COME...
King Kou
I SHALL APPROVE OF YOUR IMMI-GRATION.
AK! YOU HAVE DONE WELL IN COMING SUCH A LONG WAY



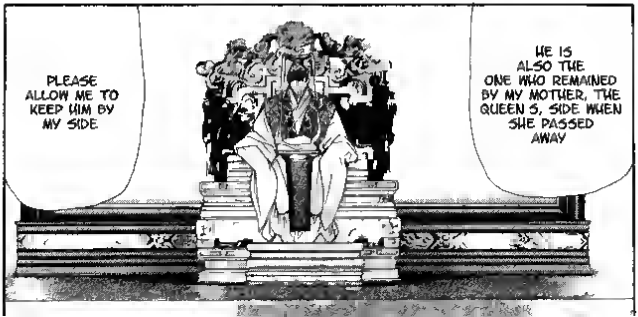
STIRRING
WHAT?!


THE SERVANT BEHIND YOU AS WELL.
RE-MOVE YOUR HOOD


BAR-BARIAN!
YELLOW HAIR. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
SO, IN THE WEST, SOMEONE LIKE THAT IS COMMON!
TO LET ONE OF SUCH LOW CLASS INTO THE PALACE..!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

I SHALL INFORM YOU.

THIS PERSON IS HAKUSEI, AND AS YOU CAN SEE HE IS A FOREIGNER.
BUT HE HAS BEEN WITH ME SINCE I WAS YOUNG AND IS THE ONLY RELIABLE PERSON I HAVE BROUGHT WITH ME FROM AH

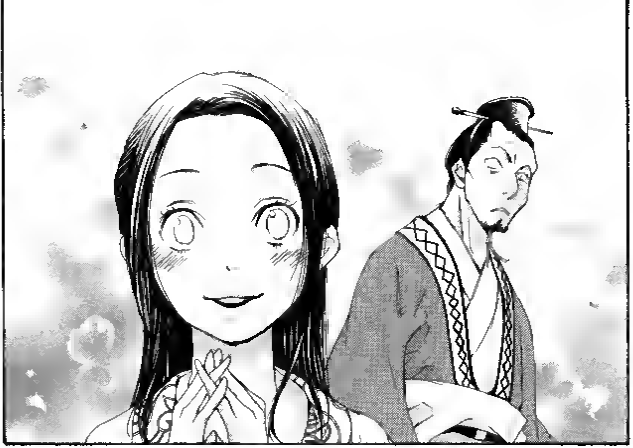

HE IS ALSO THE ONE WHO REMAINED BY MY MOTHER, THE QUEEN'S, SIDE WHEN SHE PASSED AWAY
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO KEEP HIM BY MY SIDE

I BESEECH YOU
Aki (14 years old)

HOWEVER
HUH ?
YOU TWO ARE VERY SIMILAR
YOUR MOTHER WASN'T SOMEONE WHO SPOKE WITHOUT EVEN ASKING THE KING'S PERMISSION
Wow
DOES THAT FRIVOLOUS ATTITUDE HAVE ROOTS IN YOUR FATHER'S BLOOD?
TAKE YOUR LEAVE AKI
I DO NOT WISH TO SEE SUCH A FIGURE ANYMORE
CHATTER
CHATTER

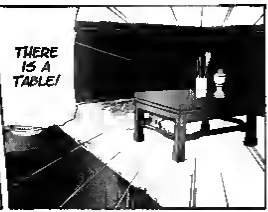
THAT OLD FART!!!
SIGH
EVER SINCE THE QUEEN PASSED AWAY, THE ALLIANCE OF KOU AND AH HAS BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE TENUOUS
HIS HIGHNESS HAS BEEN BECOMING MORE STUBBORN, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS AGE...
AH...I APOLO-GIZE.
HAKUSEI!
IS THAT WHAT YOU SAY WHEN YOU FIRST MEET YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER?!

THIS IS...
WHERE THE PRINCESS WILL... STAY
WELL... IT'S A BUILDING THAT IS QUITE FAR FROM THE ROYAL PALACE, BUT IT'S NICE AND QUIET.
AND IT ALSO HAS A FRUGAL~ I MEAN, SIMPLE ATMOSPHERE, SO IT HAS TASTE... WE THOUGHT...
CHIRP
I WONDER WHAT HIS HIGHNESS WAS THINKING WHEN HE ASSIGNED A PLACE LIKE THIS... I THINK THERE HAS BEEN SOME KIND OF MISTAKE
Ahehehe
I KNEW HE WAS FRIVOLOUS
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO CALM DOWN OLD MAN
PRINCESS, PLEASE CALM DOWN AND..
AH THAT
IS THIS IT?



WE CAN EAT WARM FOOD!
PRINCESS, THE KITCHEN IS NEAR HERE!

THE SUNLIGHT ENTERS EASILY!


THERE IS A TABLE!

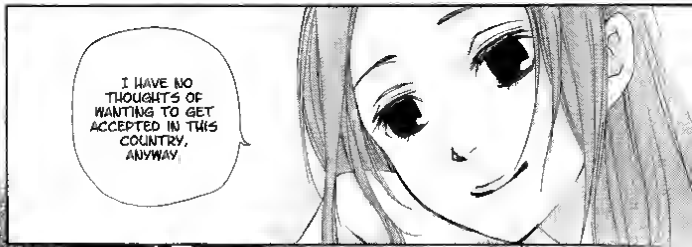
UM... ARE YOU FINE WITH A FILTHY PLACE LIKE THIS?

IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN WHERE I WAS STAYING IN AKI
MISS AKI.
KOU AND AKI... SINCE THESE TWO TYPES OF BLOOD FLOW THROUGH YOU, IN WHATEVER COUNTRY, THERE MAY BE SOME WHO WILL OPPOSE YOU.
BUT HIS HIGHNESS' COLDNESS IS BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT HE LOST MISS AKI'S MOTHER
PLEASE DON'T WORRY. MISS AKI WILL BE LOVED

he has
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT, PRINCESS.
I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANY BONDS WITH MY FAMILY AT ALL.
I LOST MY MOTHER, I'VE BEEN SENT TO BE A HOSTAGE BY FATHER, I'M HATED BY GRANDFATHER...

HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD PERSON...

BUT THAT KING'S A LITTLE...


I HAVE NO THOUGHTS OF WANTING TO GET ACCEPTED IN THIS COUNTRY, ANYWAY.

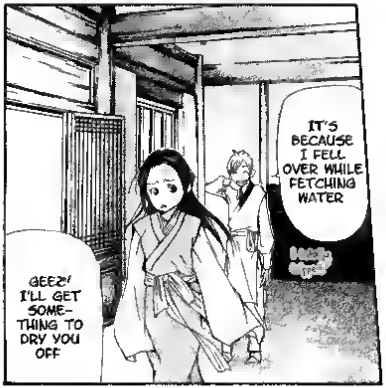
"I WILL SURELY RETURN TO M."
THIS IS THE ONLY STRENGTH THAT SUPPORTS ME.

DID YOU SEE?
THAT PRINCESS FROM AU COUNTRY!
IS IT TRUE THAT SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE HER MOTHER WHO WENT FROM OUR COUNTRY KOU TO THE AU COUNTRY TO BE MARRIED?
THEN SHE SHOULD BE REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
I HEARD THAT THE MOTHER WAS SUCH A BEAUTY THAT SHE ENCHANTED THE SEI FAMILY'S SON.
EHP IF YOU SAY THE SEI FAMILY, YOU MEAN SIR SEIITSU?
NOT HIM. SIR SEIITSU ACTUALLY HAS A YOUNGER BROTHER...
NO, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY!
THEY SAY THAT THE BARBARIAN THAT THE PRINCESS BROUGHT ALONG HAS HAIR THAT IS YELLOW LIKE A BIRD!
SUR-PRISING!
YEAH
SHOUK
THE BARBA-RIAN!

Transcendence

Splash
AHHH!
IS THAT SO
AHH ALL I WANTED WAS TO USE THE WELL FOR A SECOND
I WON'T DO ANYTHING, SO DON'T WORRY
KYAA! KYAA!
Drenched
KYAAA!
Smile
HERE

DON'T TOUCH IT!
SWISH
WHY
I DON'T WANT TO DRINK WATER THAT A LOWLY SERVANT HAS TOUCHED!
WHAT IF YOU INFECT ME WITH YOUR YELLOW HAIR?!
THUNK
KYAA
KYAA


IT'S BECAUSE I FELL OVER WHILE FETCHING WATER
GEEZ! I'LL GET SOME-THING TO DRY YOU OFF

HAKUSEI! YOU'RE ALL WET

NO, I'LL DO THAT
IT'S FINE!

STUMBLE
POUNCE

HAKUSEI... SHOULD I GET ANGRY?
YOU'RE ALREADY ANGRY!
Scary
SWIP
DODGE
SWIP
DODGE
SWIP
DODGE
SWIP
DODGE
PRIN-CESS
SO IF EVEN ONE OF MY YELLOW HAIRS WERE TO BE PASSED ON TO YOU...
I'D HATE IT...
I'M NOT SAYING THIS WILL HAPPEN...
BUT I REALLY LIKE YOUR BEAUTIFUL BLACK HAIR.

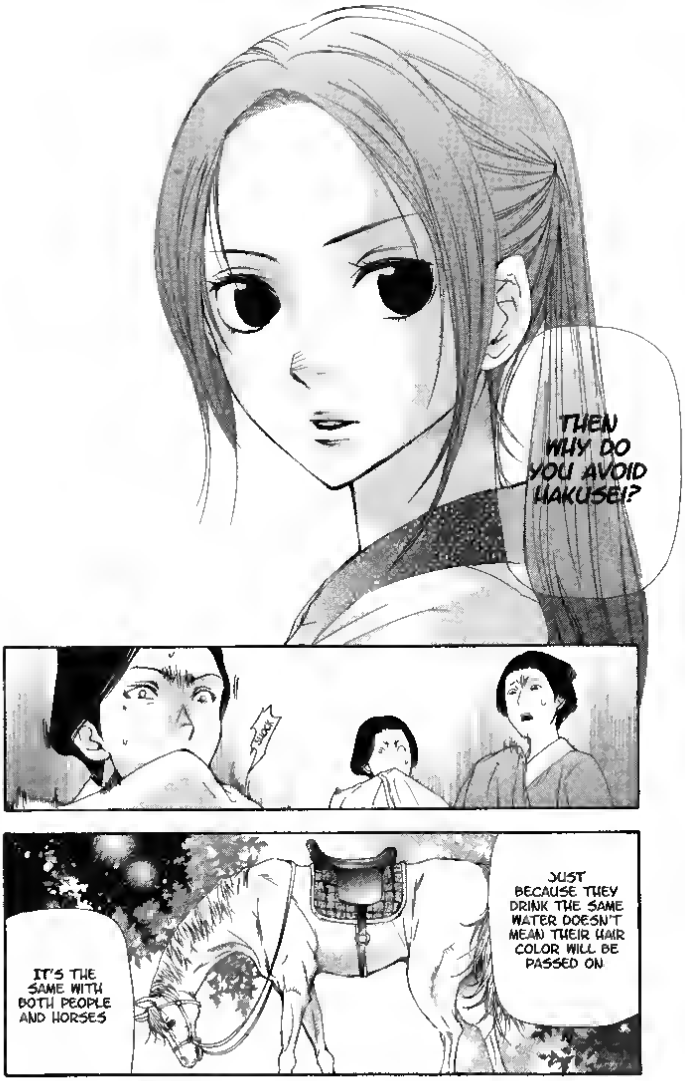
YOU'RE AN IDIOT
BUT DON'T YOU HOLD SUSPICIONS ABOUT PEOPLE A LITTLE TOO MUCH, ALSO?
I'VE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES
IT'S ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS
Ouwu!
I'm sorry
SINCE FOREIGNERS ARE RARE IN THIS EASTERN COUNTRY
YOU MIGHT BE SUFFERING A LOT BECAUSE OF ME,
SFX: RUB RUB RUB
SFX: FLAP

THIS GOLDEN HAIR AND THESE SKY-COLORED EYES ARE ALSO REALLY BEAUTIFUL
DON'T
LET OTHERS PICK ON YOU BECAUSE OF THAT

I...

think I'm
going to cry

SMILE
WILL YOU FETCH ME SOME WATER?
SHOCKED
NICE TIMING
IT IT'S THE PRINCESS OF THE AH COUNTRY THAT THE RUMORS SPEAK OF
ALTHOUGH SHE'S A PRINCESS, SHE'S CROUCHED DOWN IN A PLACE LIKE THAT
EH.
ISN'T THIS WHITE HORSE REALLY BEAUTIFUL? I THOUGHT THE OTHER HORSES MIGHT BECOME JUST AS BEAUTIFUL IF THEY DRANK THE SAME WATER BY ITS SIDE
NEIGH
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT
IS SHE AN IDIOT THIS PRINCESS?
AS IF THE HORSES IN THE SAME STABLE WOULD ALL BECOME WHITE.
IS THAT SO


THEN WHY DO YOU AVOID HAKUSEI?
Huh?
JUST BECAUSE THEY DRINK THE SAME WATER DOESN'T MEAN THEIR HAIR COLOR WILL BE PASSED ON
IT'S THE SAME WITH BOTH PEOPLE AND HORSES

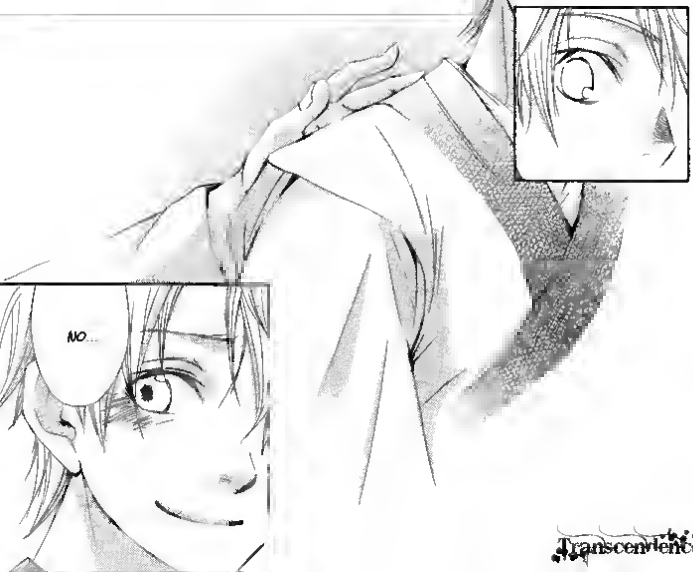
A PER-SON
FEARS THINGS WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM THEM IT'S LOGICAL THAT YOU WOULD FEAR AN UNKNOWN BEING
BUT IF YOU LOOK AT THE TRUE FORM OF THAT FEAR...
IT MIGHT JUST BE A CRYBABY
I DON'T CRY!
RUSTLE
SO YOU WERE EAVES-DROPPING?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WENT OUT ON YOUR OWN! I WAS GUARDING YOU!
OH, IS THAT SO? ANYWAY, CAN'T I RIDE THAT HORSE FOR A WHILE?
I want to gallop
OF COURSE NOT! YOU ARE A HOSTAGE!

Weird master-servant relationship...
For a servant to talk to a princess like that...
We...
HAKUSEI
NOW YOU'VE PROBABLY MEMORIZED THEIR FACES AS WELL LEARN THE CULTURE OF THIS PLACE FROM THEM
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND THIS PLACE

PRINCESS, WHAT DO I DO?

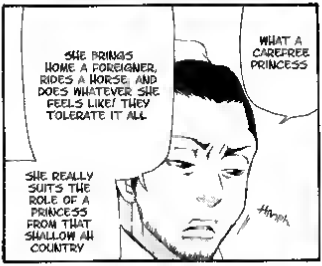
GRRLL
WAIT PRINCESS!

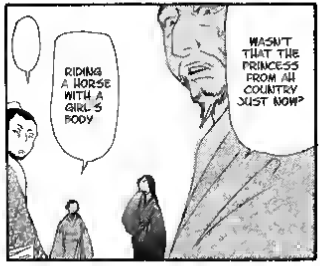
WHAT SHOULD I SAY
HEE HEE
Tap
AH
YOU'RE PROBABLY SUFFERING A LOT, TOO

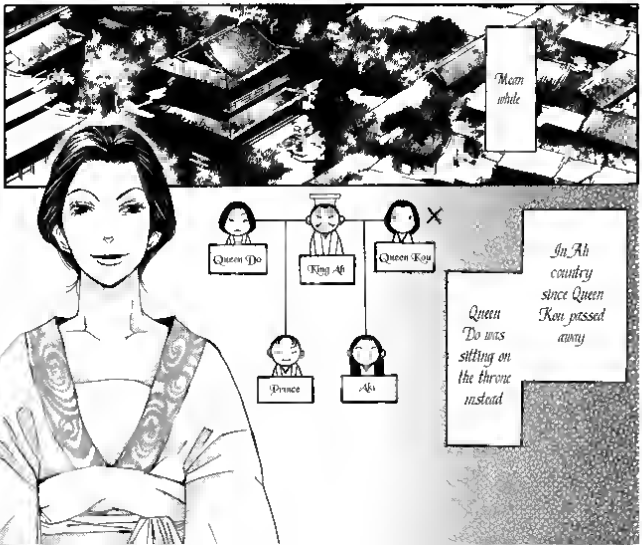

NO...

NOT
AT ALL...

CALLOP CALLOP CALLOP
WHOA!
WHA!


WHAT A CAREFREE PRINCESS
SHE BRINGS HOME A FOREIGNER, RIDES A HORSE, AND DOES WHATEVER SHE FEELS LIKE! THEY TOLERATE IT ALL
SHE REALLY SUITS THE ROLE OF A PRINCESS FROM THAT SHALLOW AH COUNTRY
Hmph


WASN'T THAT THE PRINCESS FROM AH COUNTRY JUST NOW?
RIDING A HORSE WITH A GIRL'S BODY

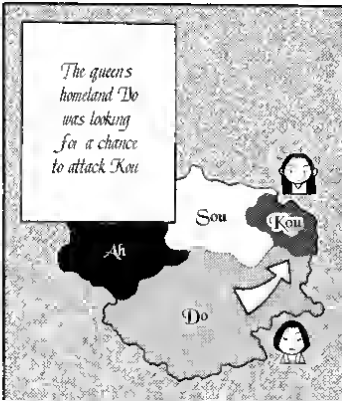

Meanwhile
Queen Do
King Ah
Queen Kou
Prince
Ah
In Ah country since Queen Kou passed away
Queen Do was sitting on the throne instead

I WONDER HOW PRINCESS AKI IS DOING IN KOU.
Queen D
(Aki's stepmother)

YOUR HIGH-NESS
Ah country

I HEARD THAT THERE MAY BE A WAR SOON
King Ah
(Aki's father)

I CANNOT SEND REIN-FORCEMENTS
KOU WILL ASK FOR OUR COUNTRY'S HELP TOO
BUT... THEN PRINCESS AKI WHO'S IN KOU...


The queen's homeland Do was looking for a chance to attack Kou
Sou
Kou
Ah
Do

I WILL ABANDON AKI
I CANNOT SEND TEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS FOR ONE PRINCESS
I'M SURE THAT CHILD ALSO PREPARED HERSELF WHEN SHE BECAME A HOSTAGE.
Ok
THESE ARE CHAOTIC TIMES BUT THAT IS CRUEL.
SO
CRUEL

BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO AND I'M BORED
YOU'RE STILL A PRINCESS IN NAME SO PLEASE DON'T FETCH WATER YOURSELF
PRIN-CESS!

YES, YES, PLEASE SELL ME FOR A HIGH PRICE.
HAKUSEI-! I'M GOING TO SELL YOU TO SEITETSU IN AN COUNTRY!
An country merchant
YES, YES, YOU'RE REAL
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IN NAME"?! I'M REAL ROYALTY!
Hmm...
REALLY ANNOYING

DON'T GET NEAR THE WELL!!!
IT'D BE TROUBLE-SOME IF YOU POISONED IT.
STAY AWAY.
WAI...
...

AH
THIS PERSON IS FINE! HE WON'T POISON THE WELL!
WAIT! ARE YOU SAYING THAT BECAUSE THIS PERSON IS A BARBARIAN?!
Dash
IT'S A WHITE HORSE!
to be scalded
RI... RIGHT! LET'S SAY THAT THERE IS A WHITE PIG...
NO
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE BARBARIAN
WHAT I MEANT WAS
SIGH

THE PRINCESS OF AH OVER THERE.
YOU

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ALLIED WITH KOU SHE WOULD BETRAY US WITH AN INNOCENT FACE.
AH COUNTRY KNOWS NO LIMITS

A SMALL COUNTRY, BUT IT IS BEAUTIFUL.
I DO NOT HAVE ANY INTENTION OF HARMING THIS COUNTRY.
KOU IS
IF YOU'RE FROM SUCH A COUNTRY, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'LL DO.

IT REALLY IS A LAND TO BE CONQUERED
BUT CONSIDERING YOU'RE LAYING THE BLAME ON A MERE GIRL,
MISS AKI
WHAT ?!
Embarrassed
SO OUR ALLIANCE WITH AH COUNTRY HAS BEEN BROKEN
JUST NOW, KING AH HAS REJECTED OUR REQUEST FOR REINFORCE-MENTS,
YOU ARE CORRECT BUT,
S-SIR SEITSU!
Ach!

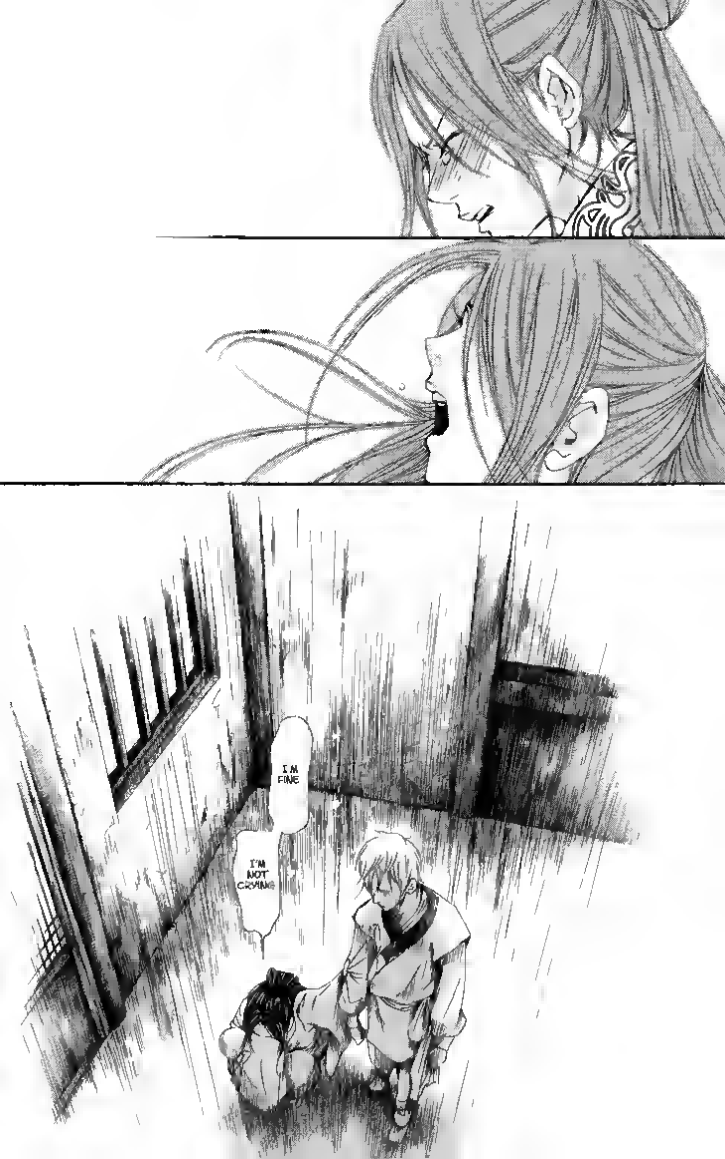
*REIKYUU = A NOBLE'S PRISON IN THIS CASE.

TO THINK THAT WAR BROKE OUT SO SOON.
HAKUSEI.
PULL OUT
*ANKI = A HIDDEN WEAPON.
DO YOU WANT TO CAUSE ANOTHER WAR?
PUT THAT ANKI* AWAY

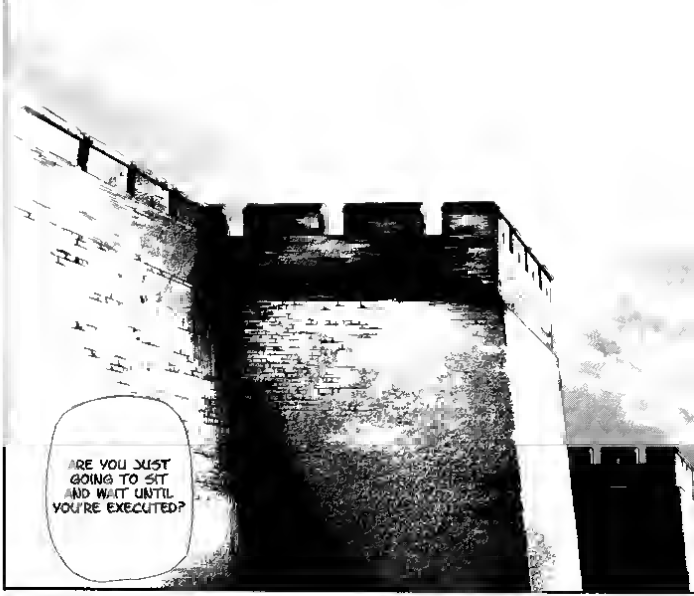
Push
IT'S FINE. IT WILL WORK OUT SOMEHOW
BUT DON'T ASK ME HOW!
I AM SORRY THAT I CANNOT DO ANYTHING
IT'S OK IF YOU MOVE TO THE REIKYUU TOMORROW
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
THE MOMENT AN ALLIANCE IS BROKEN, A HOSTAGE'S FATE IS TO BE EXECUTED.
THERE IS NO WAY THINGS WILL BE ALL RIGHT
YOU HAVE BEEN ABANDONED BY YOUR FATHER, THE KING!

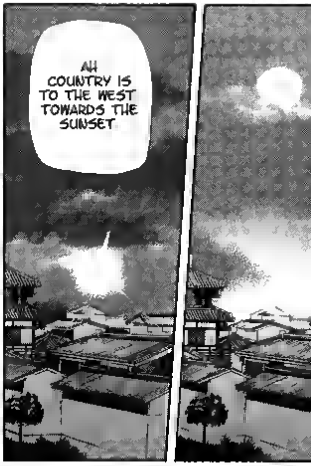
SHUT UP!
NO, SIR SEIITSU I WILL SAY MY PEACE!
PRINCESS DO YOU KNOW WHY I MENTIONED POISON JUST NOW?
THERE IS A RUMOR
THAT YOU POISONED YOUR REAL MOTHER... QUEEN KOU!
I DON'T CARE...
IT'S PROBABLY A RUMOR STARTED BY QUEEN DO TO LAY THE BLAME ON ME
DON'T MIND IT
Turn

"Princess
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS I WILL RETURN TO AH,
TO AVENGE MY MOTHER
"Leave this country of Ah
"You should not have been born."
I AM NOT-
I BECAUSE OF WHAT ?
"The naivete of the princess is what killed Queen Kou
"It wasn't me"


I'M FINE
I'M NOT CRYING

NOT CRYING...
Even though she's just a fourteen year old girl...
LET'S RUN AWAY!


ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SIT AND WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE EXECUTED?


AH COUNTRY IS TO THE WEST TOWARDS THE SUNSET

Ugh!
HIT

LET'S ESCAPE AT NIGHT.
DON'T WORRY! THE SECURITY OUTSIDE THE GATE IS HEAVY, BUT ON THE INSIDE IT'S LIGHT.
HAKUSEI... YOU'RE AMAZING.
YOU'RE LIKE A THIEF.
TSK-! LET'S JUST ESCAPE!
Hurry
chuu! chuu!

THE SKY IS SO HIGH!
YOU'RE GOING TO TRIP IF YOU KEEP LOOKING UP!
THIS ROAD SHOULD TAKE US BACK TO AH
SKIP
AH, WHOA! I'M SORRY!
Swish
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE. WE SHOULD MOVE TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD IF ANY HORSES PASS BY
RUSTLE
YEAH

wipe
.....
wipe
wipe
wipe
wipe
wipe
wipe
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME OUT HERE
I'M STILL ALIVE BECAUSE OF YOU
Princess
I'll protect you
SFX. GALLOP GALLOP

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Merchant of Ah • Seitetsu
SEITETSU!
THAT'S OUR LINE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE, WHEN YOU SHOULD BE TRADING IN AH?!
I HAD SOMETHING TO DO IN KOU.
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANT-LY

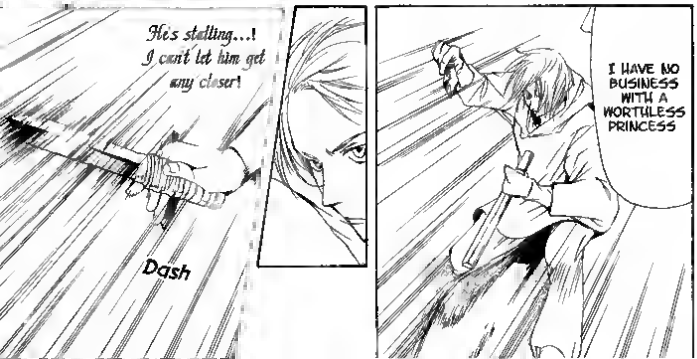
I SEE. SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
RETURN TO KOU PALACE IMMEDIATELY!
BUT IF WE RETURN... THE PRINCESS MAY BE EXECUTED! ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?!
I'LL EXPLAIN THE SITUATION
I DON'T WANT TO
HOW CAN A MERCHANT...
I'M GOING TO RETURN TO AH
AND AVENGE MY MOTHER

Smile
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY!
NO.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU'RE GOING TO KILL QUEEN DO? YOU'LL BE KILLED AS WELL!
PRIN-CESS...?
REVENGE IS THE ONLY REASON I'M ALIVE!
AFTER FATHER ABANDONED ME I REALIZED MY PLACE IS NO LONGER UNDER THE SKY
Nod
SO YOU'RE DETER-MINED TO DIE...?
I SEE THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE
GI GLEK

You will die here
DASH!
PRINCESS, PLEASE GET BACK
ズバッ

THIS TRADE IS A FAILURE
I CANNOT LET YOU PASS* ALTHOUGH I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PRINCESS' FUTURE AND WILLINGLY PLAYED THEIR GAMES

*ORIGINALLY "KIKAO KUPESHI" = TO NOT MISS A GOOD CHANCE.



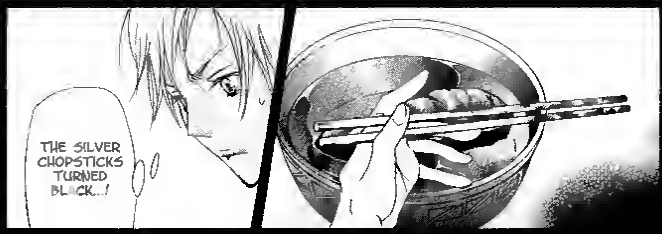
He's fast...!
WHO DO YOU THINK TAUGHT YOU THE SWORD?
YOU'RE TEN YEARS TOO EARLY!
HAKUSEI!
NAIVE!
HIT

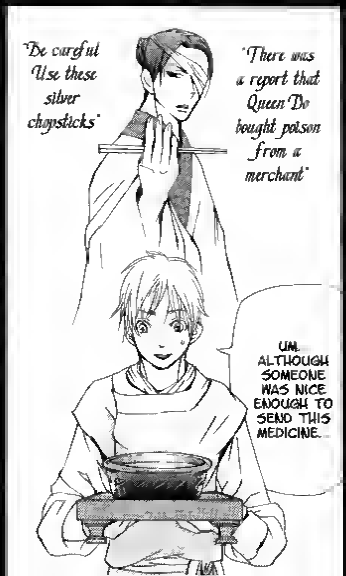
I'm going to protect her
I DON'T WANT TO!
CLA
SH
Slide
THIS GUY'S GOING TO DIE
HEY, PRINCESS
YOUR FATE IS TO DRAG OTHERS DOWN WITH YOU
IT WILL BE YOUR FAULT
EVEN IF YOU DON'T DIE BY MY HAND, IF YOU DIE, WE'LL DIE

STEP
YOUR MOTHER ALSO DIED BECAUSE OF YOU!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T DIE HERE,
dash
WHAT CAN YOU DO?
SHUT UP!
STOP FOOLING YOURSELF!
YOU JUST WANT TO THROW EVERYTHING AWAY AND RELAX DON'T GLAMORIZE DEATH!

UGH!
YOU
YOUR MOTHER...
WAS STRONGER THAN YOU
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HAKUSEI?
UNTIL THE END SHE PUT HER LIFE ON THE LINE TO SAVE HER DAUGHTER
HAKUSEI... WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

(Ah country, six months earlier)
Queen Kou's place


THE SILVER CHOPSTICKS TURNED BLACK...!


"Be careful Use these silver chopsticks"
"There was a report that Queen Do bought poison from a merchant"
UM. ALTHOUGH SOMEONE WAS NICE ENOUGH TO SEND THIS MEDICINE...

AH, YES...!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? PLEASE HAND ME THAT MEDICINE.

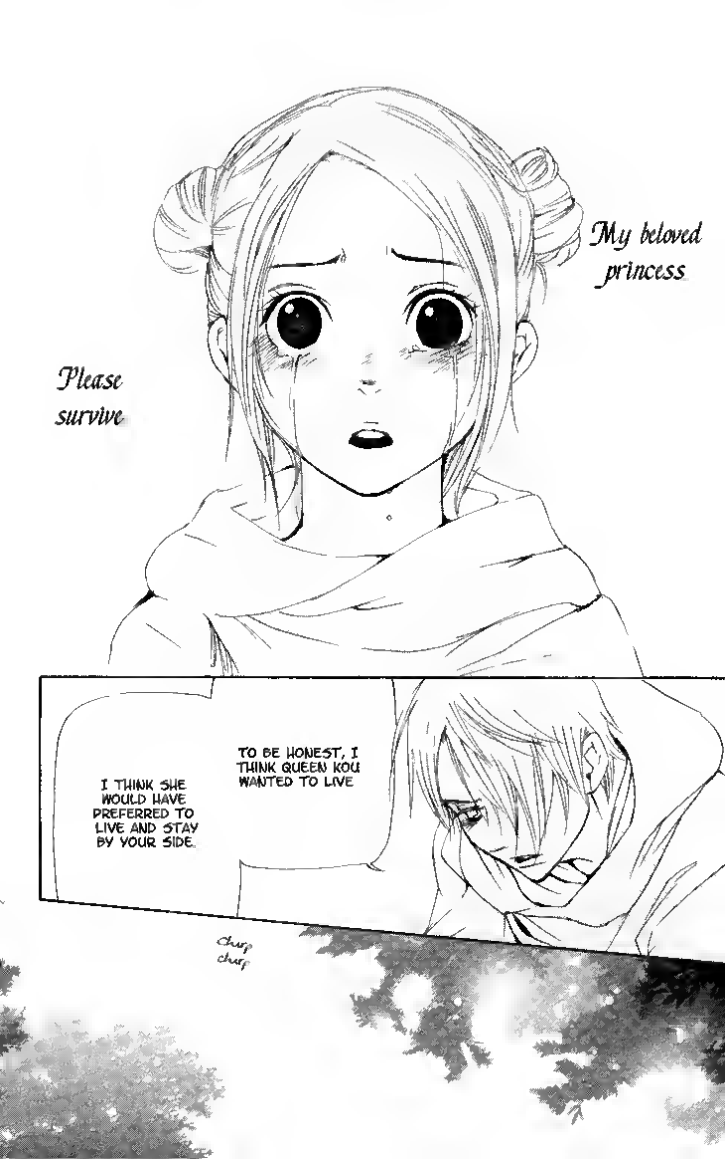
Queen Kou (Aki's mother)
IS IT
POISON?
EH?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FINE"?!
Shoosh
IT'S FINE PLEASE GIVE IT TO ME
I DON'T WANT TO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DRINK THAT?
IT'S FINE, SO QUICKLY GIVE ME THE MEDICINE

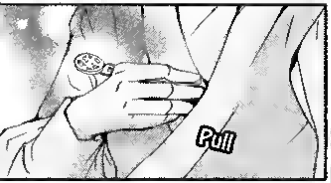
IT'S TO SAVE THE PRINCESS
SHE MUST HAVE FINALLY CAUGHT QUEEN DO'S ATTENTION.
I'M GLAD THAT THE PRINCESS ISN'T HERE NOW... THAT POISON WAS PROBABLY MEANT FOR HER.
EVEN SO...!
THE PRINCESS MAY NOT UNDERSTAND IT YET, BUT THE FIGHT FOR THE KING'S THRONE HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
COMPARED TO THE PRINCE QUEEN DO GAVE BIRTH TO, THE PRINCESS IS VERY CLEVER.
Prince Ah.
Chubby chubby

"Mother, eat this."
EVER SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG, SHE HAS NEVER TAKEN CARE OF HERSELF... ONLY THINKING ABOUT HER MOTHER
HAKUSEI! IF THIS CONTINUES, THE PRINCESS WILL BE MURDERED
SHE IS A GOOD CHILD WHO WOULDN'T TRY TO SAVE HERSELF BY KNOCKING OUT HER OPPONENTS
THANK YOU...
LISTEN HAKUSEI!
MAKE SURE THE PRINCESS THINKS THAT QUEEN DO'S POISON KILLED ME! MAKE HER HATE THE ENEMY!
Grab
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
BECAUSE OF MY ILLNESS I MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE TOMORROW
WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE IF I DRANK POISON RIGHT NOW INSTEAD?

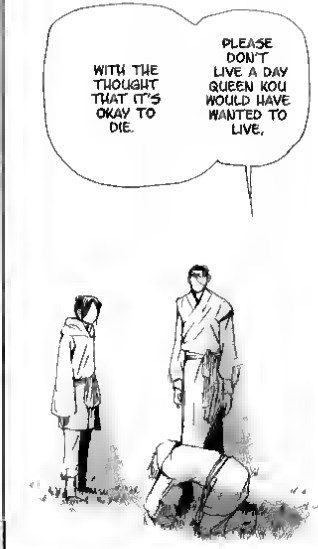
I SHALL LEAVE HATE RATHER THAN KINDNESS,
AND GIVE THAT CHILD A CRUEL LIFE RATHER THAN A PEACEFUL DEATH!
THAT WILL SAVE THAT CHILD
I'M SURE OF IT...

Jean
HURRY
HAND ME THAT POISON
I UNDERSTAND, YOUR HIGH-NESS
Princess


My beloved princess
Please survive
I THINK SHE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO LIVE AND STAY BY YOUR SIDE.
TO BE HONEST, I THINK QUEEN KOU WANTED TO LIVE
Chuy, chuy

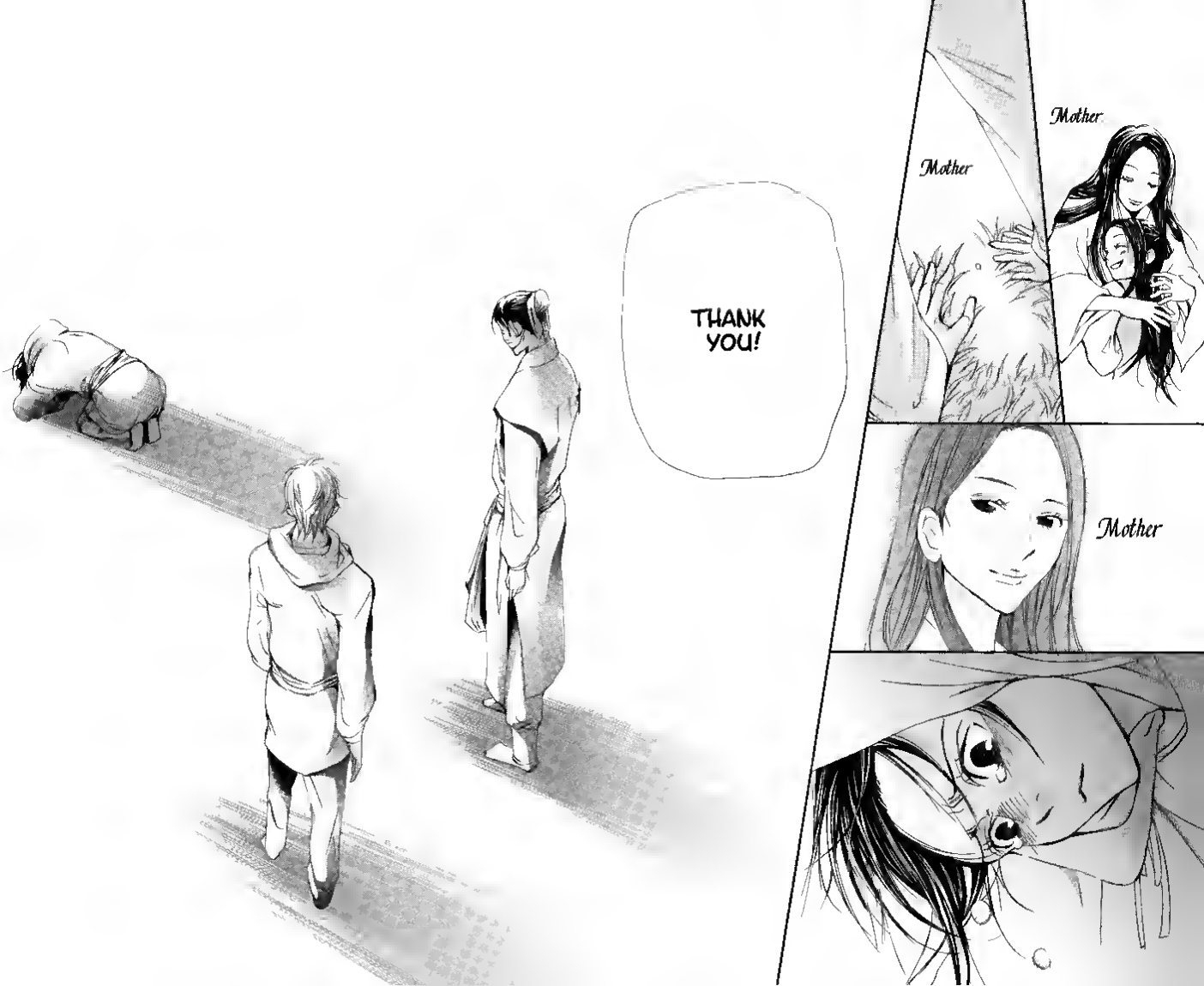

Pull

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR MOTHER'S HAIR PIN
WEAR IT WHEN YOU RETURN TO KOU
YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF LIVING THERE THAN IN AU


PLEASE DON'T LIVE A DAY QUEEN KOU WOULD HAVE WANTED TO LIVE,
WITH THE THOUGHT THAT IT'S OKAY TO DIE.

HAKUSEI

Turn
YOU SAID THAT AU LIES IN THE WEST... TOWARDS THE SUNSET.

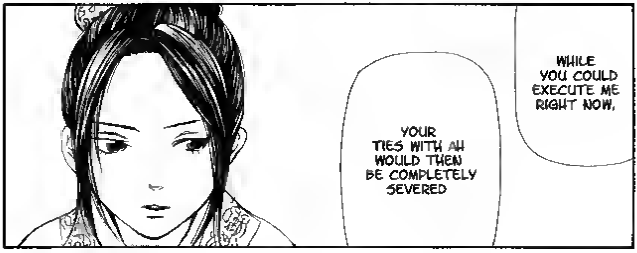

THANK YOU!
Mother
Mother
Mother

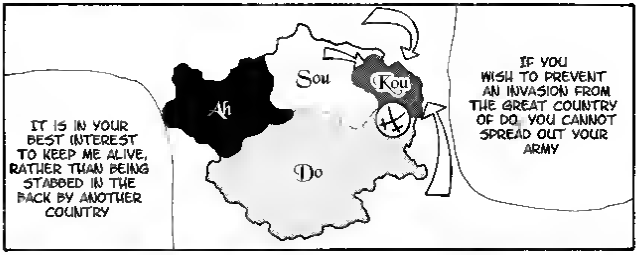
I won't return to Ah right now

I will continue to live in Kou

When the day comes, that I return to Ah
And
At your grave
I will place...
HAVE YOU RETURNED TO BE EXECUTED?
NO
A bouquet of flowers...
I CAME TO SURVIVE

PLEASE USE ME.


WHILE YOU COULD EXECUTE ME RIGHT NOW,
YOUR TIES WITH AH WOULD THEN BE COMPLETELY SEVERED


IF YOU WISH TO PREVENT AN INVASION FROM THE GREAT COUNTRY OF DO, YOU CANNOT SPREAD OUT YOUR ARMY
Sou
Kou
Ah
Do
IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO KEEP ME ALIVE, RATHER THAN BEING STABBED IN THE BACK BY ANOTHER COUNTRY

PLEASE, SEND ME TO FIGHT.

IF THE PRINCESS OF AU APPEARS ON THE BATTLEFIELD IN SUPPORT OF KOU,
THE OTHER COUNTRIES WILL BE HESITANT TO JOIN FORCES WITH YOUR ENEMY
ALTHOUGH THIS IS ALL I, WHO HAS LOST HER MOTHER AND BEEN ABANDONED BY HER FATHER AM USEFUL FOR,
PLEASE TOLERATE IT.
HMM
SO YOU'RE BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE AFTER ALL IT'S PITIABLE

YOU'RE A FRIVOLOUS CHILD, UNLIKE YOUR MOTHER
U
YOU TALK WELL, WITHOUT ASKING FOR PERMISSION.
BUT SIRE...
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, SEIITSU!
DO AS YOU WISH.
YOU WON'T DIE IN BATTLE WITH THAT FRIVOLOUS NATURE OF YOURS.
BUT,

EH ?
LONG AGO, I GAVE A HAIR PIN TO MY DAUGHTER WHEN I SENT HER AS A BRIDE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.
SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL, KIND, AND POLITE CHILD.
I CARVED A DRAGON INTO THE HAIR ACCESSORY SO THE GODS WOULD PROTECT HER.

DON'T DIE
DYING BEFORE AN OLD PERSON IS THE RUDEST THING YOU CAN DO
WAS IT A MISTAKE TO TAKE THE PRINCESS OUTSIDE...?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE PRINCESS ENTERED THE PALACE...
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY KING KOU ISN'T A FOOLISH PERSON
HE WON'T EXECUTE HER

I WANT TO BECOME STRONG!
SO THE PRINCESS DOESN'T HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE STRONG
ALTHOUGH AN ENEMY COULD HAVE DEFEATED ME IN ONE BLOW
NO, YOU'RE JUST STUPID.
WOW! YOU'RE SO COLD TO YOUR STUDENT...! BUT,
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT FACES A LONG SWORD WITH A SHORT SWORD?
I CAN STILL SMELL LAMB ON YOUR BREATH
I was so worried about how it would turn out, this Seiten couldn't even swallow his rice.
But that isn't rice, it's meat
I SEE...
I'm glad.

HAKUSEI!
PRINCESS!

Mother
I'm still alive
YOU'RE SAFE
YES I'M SAFE. AHAHAHA

This country where mother was born and raised
is a far more beautiful country than I thought
YOU...
CAME BA-

Stand
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.
BUT I SHALL REPORT FIRST!
THE KING HAS ALREADY SENT A MESSENGER,
BUT THE SERVANT I LEFT BEHIND AT THE BORDER,
CONFIRMED DO WARRIORS MARCHING TOWARDS KOU
THEIR ARMY HAS NEARLY 100,000 MEN!!!

Shiver
The age that Aki would put on armor and enter her first battle,
was when she had just turned fifteen.
TO BE CONTINUED IN JOGU NO HANA VOLUME 2.

Joou no Hana

Vol 01 Chap 02a Pt 01

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